Dear Parents, Guardians Students and Other Parishioners,

The debate about changing the definition of Marriage has been centre stage this week in Parliament and I guess has occupied our minds as well. The Archbishop has prepared a letter on the Catholic Church’s position on Marriage. This link will take you to a document prepared by the Archdiocese to inform you fully of the Church’s teaching. I encourage you to read it and be informed.

Behaviour Management at St Elizabeth’s

As I have said before through the newsletter, the staff at St Elizabeth’s are working with young children who are learning to be responsible citizens. Learning being the key word as we are not born knowing what society expects of us, we have to be taught to do the right thing. Some of us find this learning easy and we learn from our role models and the social environment around us to pick up the signals of what is appropriate and what is not. Parents are of course the first teachers of what is appropriate and what is right behaviour. Some of us come from different environments and cultures and need extra support to learn what Australian social rules are and what society’s expectations are.

We all come from different backgrounds but there is a clear expectation that as we grow up to become...
full citizens of this country, we will respect the values inherent in being a good and responsible member of the Australian community. At St Elizabeth’s we explicitly teach those values. Teaching children values such as respect, tolerance, honesty, being inclusive, etc takes time just like teaching children mathematics or reading and writing.

Children do make mistakes. All of us make mistakes. I have to admit to doing the wrong thing as a child. I remember eating 3 chocolate bars instead of eating one and taking the others home for my sister and brother. I remember telling lies to my Mum and Dad and not owning up to things that I had left out or broken. All this is perfectly normal and we are kidding ourselves if we think our children are saints! I was not involved in social behaviours that seriously affected others.

All schools will, on rare occasions, have difficult situations where a child, still learning to live out the expected values, makes a serious mistake. On those very rare occasions, the learning and teaching program and possibly the safety of others may be affected.

Following one of these rare situations last week, I am taking a proposal to the School Education Board that when such an incident occurs at school in a way that interrupts the learning and safety of everyone in a community, we send a note home to families whose children are involved. Families rightly would be concerned and can support the child at home by listening to their story and explaining that the school will be helping anyone involved to do the right thing in future. Our concern is the safety of everyone.

The note would say -

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today there was an incident in the Learning Community that might have upset your child. We have supported the children at school but please ask your child if they need any further support. Ms Perazzo, our Wellbeing Coordinator, is available to work with any child who needs some extra help to understand the situation.

Obviously, there are serious consequences for any student that impacts on your child’s safety, but in respecting every family’s privacy and dignity, you will understand that we are not able to share those with you.

You can rest assured that when such an incident occurs, we do support the staff and the students who are affected, as well as providing intensive support to the child/ren responsible. We provide the opportunity to access professional support to families of children responsible for these rare situations and we do have appropriate consequences. However, our work is not to punish, but to ensure that the child/ren involved can get the help they need to learn to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and we set serious consequences to deepen understanding of what is appropriate social behaviour.

Christine Ash
The Principal
Social Justice at St Elizabeth’s Primary School

‘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!

What are we doing at St Elizabeth’s now?

Right at this moment each of our year levels are organising fund raising activities to support the families from Nepal who have lost so much during the earthquake disaster. Our students have been working very hard to come up with creative and fun ways to raise money. So far they have sold their own toys, ran fun races and craft activities. There is more fun fundraising to come!

Our students are hoping that the money that they raise in a fun way will put a smile on another child’s face in Nepal, on the other side of the world. Please continue to support each of the levels.

CLASS / SCHOOL LITURGIES

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

Friday 12 June:
‘Feast of the Sacred Heart’, whole school Giving Mass at 9.15am

Saturday 13 June:
POLDING-GREEN Sports Team Hosting Mass at 6.30pm

Friday 26 June:
Yr3 & Yr4 Learning Community Mass at 9.15am

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

On Friday, 12 June, we will celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart. We think about God’s great love for us in gifting us with His Son Jesus, the Christ. We also think about how we can respond to God’s gift to us by giving to others who are in need. We are asked to bring, where possible, a gift of non-perishable food, warm clothing or a gold coin donation to be placed before the altar. These gifts will then be given to the St Vincent De Paul society to help them in their work of reaching out to those in need in our own parish community and local neighbourhood.

Foundation
Yr1 & Yr2
Non-perishable food or gold coin donation.

Yr3 & Yr4
Warm winter clothing or gold coin donation. (Please ensure clothing is clean and in good condition.)

Yr5 & Yr6
Non-perishable food or gold coin donation. (Please ensure the food is within its used by date.)

Blanket or gold coin donation.

If you have something in the above categories, please send it along. The list is just a suggested guide for your family. Feel free to send along what is possible for your family.

We realise we have been asking for your support in many different ways to help others, yet as our days grow colder and the nights grow longer we think about those families in our own community who are in need of a warm meal or warm clothes to keep out the cold. This is one way we can help them and be for them the ‘Body of Christ.’ We will join with the parish community to celebrate this Feast with a whole school Mass at 9.15am. We invite you to join with us for this Mass.

‘POLDING-GREEN’ HOSTING MASS

For students from Foundation to Yr6 in ‘Polding-Green’ Sports House - Saturday 13 June 2015 at 6.30pm.

The first Polding-Green Mass is only two weeks away!

All students from St Elizabeth’s School who are in Polding Green Sports House will be involved in the hosting of the Saturday Parish Mass. The children will be invited to lead the Entrance Procession with Fr. Tad. They will be responsible for bringing up of the Gifts and leading us in the Prayers of Intercession. Students are encouraged to wear something GREEN to show they all belong to Polding Green House.

It will give the children another opportunity to gather and celebrate with their friends in the parish community. The children will need to be at the back of the church by 6.20pm to meet with the teachers and get ready for the Entrance Procession.

We expect that all Polding Green House families, will be able to be part of this special Hosting Mass. We look forward to seeing you there.

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to Talia M, Ella W, Stefan M, Joseph P, Stella J, Olivia T, Lisa D and Wade B who have received their First Communion this weekend. Keep smiling!

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

What is Respect?

Last Monday our Foundation students reminded us about our school value of mutual respect - respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment.

Respect is how you feel about someone. To have respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself. Respect is how you treat someone.

Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.

Respect can mean different things to different people. But basically, respect means to show regard or consideration for someone or something. It is critical for our children to understand the importance of respect, so that they can communicate effectively with others throughout their lives.

Developing the capacity for respect is a lifelong challenge. Our sense of self tends to be fragile. It rises and falls as we face life's challenges with varying degrees of success. The development of self-respect, or, in essence, self-esteem, is guided by how we see ourselves. The people in our lives act as a mirror in this process. When people who are important to us give us attention and encouragement, we see positive images of ourselves. At other times, our interactions with others may make us feel unattractive, incompetent, or even invisible. As with adults, young children build their sense of self-respect from their interactions with others. When they are made to feel special and valued, children grow to respect themselves. A positive sense of one's self allows the maturing child to respect others.

Self-respect is at the heart of respecting others. When you can identify and appreciate your strengths and accept your vulnerabilities, it's easier to truly respect the value in others.

Struggling With Respect

There are two ways in which children struggle with respect. One is overt noncompliance and defiance. This is almost always associated with a poor sense of self.

The other way in which a child struggles with respect is when he begins to say, "I'm bad", "I can't do that", "I'm stupid", "He's better than I am". Children with this type of poor sense of self start to limit their opportunities. They don't try as hard, and as a result, they may end up creating self-fulfilling prophecies. Because they don't try new things, they don't learn as fast. They fall behind. This negative cycle can be very destructive for young children.

What You Can Do

Children will come to respect the traits and values of the adults in their lives. Let children see how you show respect for all people, including the elderly, authority figures such as police officers, and people who are different from you in terms of ethnicity or religion.

Strive to live what you teach. Be patient, consistent, caring, honest, and attentive.

When a child is struggling, give him opportunities to succeed. Match his social and learning challenges with his stage of development. Slowly help him master new, but not overwhelming, challenges.

Use positive comments and encouragement to shape and reinforce behaviours. Remember the intense power of negative comments.

Nan Perazzo / Wellbeing Coordinator
As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. You have something in common with the teachers: ‘You both want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child’s talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Progress interviews are a great opportunity for parents, students and teachers to work together.

As the student is the focus of this progress interview, it is important that they attend with you. Your child will have been preparing for this interview by spending some time in class reflecting on their achievements throughout this semester. Having ownership in sharing this progress at the interview is one way we further encourage our students to become more independent and responsible for their learning.

Progress interviews also provide an opportunity for parents to:

- Share information about your child’s progress, interests and needs.
- Foster positive and respectful relationships between home and school.
- Communicate with your child’s teacher. What information can you share that will assist the teacher to better support your child?

One strategy to prepare for the interview is to talk with your child before the progress interview! You could be amazed at what you learn! Ask your child:

- What might your teacher be going to say about your work?
- What will the teacher say about you?
- What do you think you do really well?
- What do you need to focus on?

A reminder that you are able to book the times with the teacher by logging onto http://www.schoointerviews.com.au or following the “interviews” link on TiqBiz on the Whole School page and entering the code LKLM7. If you need any assistance with this, please call Lisa on 9795 5258.

Rebecca Gage
Learning and Teaching Leader
gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Helping your child with mental calculations.

Most calculations that we carry out each day, we do in our heads. Sometimes we feel we need to reach for pen and paper or a calculator. Yet when we play a game of darts or cards or even watch a footy game, we rely on carrying out lots of mental calculations. For example, how many points are need to win the game and is there enough time?

Travelling, sharing a bill, shopping, playing or watching sport and preparing a meal all involve mental calculations. The methods that we use when working things out in our heads are often not the same methods that we use when we write down a sum.

So how do children learn to do mental calculations?

Children begin by counting things that they can see, and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice, children will begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. One of the earlier ways in which children learn to add two numbers mentally is to start with the larger number and count on by ones to add the second number. As children begin to deal with larger numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find the answer to 25 + 89, children could:
Round or Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14.
Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14.
Add 10 twice to 89 (89, 99,109) and then add 5 more.

One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

What can you do at home!

- Ask your child how he or she mentally worked out the answer to a question. If your child cannot work out the answer mentally, give him or her objects to use for counting. Explain how you would mentally work out the answer.
- Ask your child to work out how much change he or she will get when paying for an item at the shops.
- If your child is saving to buy an item, ask how much more money he or she will need to save before being able to buy it.
- Encourage your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.
- When playing games that use two dice, replace dot dice with ones that have numbers on them.
- If watching a game involving two teams, ask your child to work out mentally the difference in the scores.
- Involve your child in working out the costs associated with holiday travel. For example, we will stay five nights and the cost per night is $70.

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

New South Wales Department of Education and Training.
Hi all

Last Friday our school participated in the Greater Dandenong Division Cross Country Carnival. We sent 8 athletes along to run in glorious conditions. Isabella and Nyamal both finished in the top ten and thus qualified for the next level, the Southern Metro Regional Carnival.

Our Yr3, Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6 students are now finishing off their golf program. This week we played rounds of mini golf in learning link 4 in groups of four. We scored, officiated and worked together to finish off our 9 holes within the hour. There was a fair amount of maths involved in the recording of scores (but the kids barely noticed!) and it was great to see how far the students had improved over the journey.

I would like to thank the house captains for their assistance in the program. They supported our Yr3’s and Yr4’s in the mini golf with scoring, basic logistics and fine tuning our students techniques with tips and advice.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew
Sports Coordinator

INTER SCHOOL SPORT NEWS - T-BALL

On Thursday the T-balls played against St. Anthony's. The girls team won and the score was 11 to 7. The boys won and the score was 11 to 1. It was such a great day, a bit cold, but that didn't matter. The girls captain was Jasmine and the boys caption was Alexander. They played with team work and they loved every second of playing the game. Well done T-balls!!!

:) Zoe Adamopoulos
**Victorian Premier Reading Challenge**

We now have 232 students enrolled in the Challenge this year, who have read 1112 books in total so far!

15 students have already completed the Challenge.

Parents, please remember that I encourage you to become members of our school library, so that you can borrow books to read with, read to or have as extras for your child to read. It is a free service.

Come along and see me in The Nook Monday—Thursday.

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**House Colour Sport Tops Update**

The House Colour Sport Tops are now available for purchase at the Uniform Shop on Tuesdays or Fridays between 8.45am and 9.15am.
The main fundraiser for the Parish where we ask for your support is the Parish Dinner Dance.

Saturday 20th June 7pm onwards in Performing Arts Centre.

Not only will you enjoy wonderful music from “Next Generation”, and a banquet dinner by Royal Regale but the company of other parishioners from our parish.

Tickets: Adult $40 Children under 12 $25.

Tickets are still available after masses or ring Suresh 0404 024 757; Leon 0407 082 013; Adrian 0422 649 985; Niranjan 0406 173 172 or Trixie 0413 575 992
Tickets also available via the school office Monday–Thursday.

Monies from previous Dinner Dances have gone towards the roof repairs and the purchase and installation of heaters and air-conditioners in the Church.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 29th June</th>
<th>Tuesday 30th June</th>
<th>Wednesday 1st July</th>
<th>Thursday 2nd July</th>
<th>Friday 3rd July</th>
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<td><strong>Decorative Hangings</strong>&lt;br&gt;Create the following items:&lt;br&gt;- PVA Rainbow hangers&lt;br&gt;- Personalised door signs&lt;br&gt;- Colourful garlands&lt;br&gt;- Scented hangings&lt;br&gt;Join in on a challenging hanging cookie game</td>
<td><strong>Excursion Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Movies at the Reading Cinema, Dandenong Plaza&lt;br&gt;The minions</td>
<td><strong>Wellbeing Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;It is going to be a fantastic day!&lt;br&gt;Activities include:&lt;br&gt;- Still life drawing&lt;br&gt;- Relaxation music quiz&lt;br&gt;- Making lavender bags&lt;br&gt;- Silent word game&lt;br&gt;- Blind scented oil activity&lt;br&gt;- Calming beads sensory activity</td>
<td><strong>Under the Sea</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Sock sea creatures&lt;br&gt;- Humpback whale paper plate craft&lt;br&gt;- Spotted drinking straw octopus&lt;br&gt;- Paper cup fish puppets&lt;br&gt;- Stick fish&lt;br&gt;Games:&lt;br&gt;- Dead fish&lt;br&gt;- Ship shark shore&lt;br&gt;- tug of war</td>
<td><strong>No Bake Master Chef Day!</strong>&lt;br&gt;*Children are supervised by staff to make and serve raisin toast and orange juice for breakfast&lt;br&gt;*Design a menu and setup a restaurant&lt;br&gt;*Have hot dogs for lunch&lt;br&gt;*Make honey joys&lt;br&gt;*Decorate cookies to take home and decorate your own cookie box</td>
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*Includes:*<br>Transport, McDonald’s Happy Meal for lunch & Popcorn at the movies<br>Cost $20.00

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<th>Monday 6th July</th>
<th>Tuesday 7th July</th>
<th>Wednesday 8th July</th>
<th>Thursday 9th July</th>
<th>Friday 10th July</th>
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<td><strong>The letter “T” Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join us as we celebrate all things T!&lt;br&gt;Have fun:&lt;br&gt;- Building giant tracks with cylinders&lt;br&gt;- Team games such as tunnel ball &amp; table tennis&lt;br&gt;- Balloon tennis game&lt;br&gt;Decorate your own tea cake for afternoon tea</td>
<td><strong>Creative Snow</strong>&lt;br&gt;Let’s get creative with snow!&lt;br&gt;- Snow button tree&lt;br&gt;- Wrapped flowers craft&lt;br&gt;- Snow globes craft&lt;br&gt;- Raining cloud craft&lt;br&gt;- Fridge magnet craft&lt;br&gt;- Clay pot snow pot</td>
<td><strong>Excursion Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;To inflatable world!&lt;br&gt;Go on an indoor adventure with us today and have lots of fun at Ringwood inflatable world&lt;br&gt;Cost $26&lt;br&gt;BYO LUNCH + SNACK</td>
<td><strong>Recycle Art Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Rainbow wind spinner&lt;br&gt;- Robot craft&lt;br&gt;- Egg carton flowers&lt;br&gt;- Milk carton car&lt;br&gt;- Build a city with boxes&lt;br&gt;Bring in plastic bottles, boxes, egg carton anything that you can make new again work with your friends and make your own space ship.</td>
<td><strong>FAREWELL HOLIDAYS FUNDRAISING PARTY!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dress up in your pyjamas, with singing and dancing.&lt;br&gt;Bring in your favourite CD/DVD and we shall Rap, Disco, Hip Hop and Rock &amp; Roll.&lt;br&gt;Cost $5&lt;br&gt;100% of money raised goes to support our project YLV Argentina—keeping kids in great need off the street and giving them access to a meal, help with school work and educational activities &amp; games.&lt;br&gt;To read more please visit: <a href="http://www.ylv.com.au/yls">www.ylv.com.au/yls</a>&lt;br&gt;Party food supplied</td>
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### Contact Details ...

St. 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 8 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Ladybird cards, Cardmaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Winter collage, Design a winter mural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Making fridge magnets, Bag tags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Writing games, Board games</td>
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We are open on Friday 19 June. 2015. If you need care, please contact Elarine or Anita on 0422 803 709.