Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and other Parishioners,

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the changes to communication? I must admit that I come home everyday with new information in my head and I wonder how much more I can hold in my memory! Then I look around at the improvements in how we are teaching and wonder how I could not keep on learning!

The shift in what we do at school is enormous. I mean totally radical. When I first started teaching it was OK to teach to one level, the level that most children could succeed at, the average child. If you had any spare time, you helped the slower students, the students who were ahead of their peers just fended for themselves or were given busy work to do. It kept them working but it did not extend them.

Now, its certainly not OK to teach to the average ability level. Now, each teacher is expected to know what each child needs to learn next in each area and make sure that their work is planned to support that learning for every child. I am sure that you have heard us say that we are teaching individuals at their 'own point of need'. With 25 to 29 children in every classroom that means that teachers are constantly monitoring and checking all the information they have about each child so that they can pinpoint their particular level of learning across a wide range of subjects. Teachers can then try to pitch their teaching at the next level of learning that they can succeed at.

There is a famous educationalist called Vygotsky who...
teaches us that children need to be given work that is not too easy and not too hard, they need work that just stretches them to new ideas but within a range, where if they work, they will achieve success. Note that it is only if they put in the effort that they will succeed! (That is why the first thing I looked at on any report for my children was the effort bar! I never accepted anything less than 100% effort and neither should you.)

Teachers are learning to use technology to collect massive amounts of information about their students and they are using that technology to plan groups for successful teaching.

In the olden days, say 15 years ago, it was acceptable to have groups in the classroom based on what children knew. You tested them at the beginning of the year and children stayed in those groups for the year and were taught things that were tailored to their needs. About 10 years ago, it was acceptable to review those groups midway through the year, a few years ago, teachers reviewed it at the end of particular units of work but nowadays, groups should be reviewed at the end of a day!

Grouping should be totally flexible and designed to meet the needs of the students as they learn. Like me, like you, they are learning on a day to day basis. Some of their learning is under our control, some is under your control, but we need to remember all of it is under their control! We may have all the whiz bang programs in the world but if a child is not willing to learn they will not be effective learners.

On Wednesdays, teachers are invited to Techie Brekkie in the Nook. Here Bec shows us tools to support the collection, tracking and storage of all this information as well as tools to use to communicate this information between staff. If I collect data today on a student to whom I am teaching subtraction as her maths group teacher, I may want her homegroup teacher to know what progress she made on that concept today, so I use a tool that allows her home group teacher to see all my comments, feedback and assessments, and this tool also allows the homegroup teacher to add her own thoughts, ideas and observations to help me in my teaching tomorrow. Such is the power of Google Apps.

It will not be long before you too as parents will be able to log in to the school website and see all the assessments marked by teachers for your own child. You will also be able to add comments and feedback. This will be supported by the Integrated Catholic Online Network (ICON) which has and is, being designed as I write, for use in Catholic Schools in Victoria. There is no doubt that we will all be able to support student’s learning in very powerful ways with the introduction of ICON.

So please do not be disheartened by the increasing complexity of the tools schools are using. I am much older than all of you and if I can have a go at keeping up, you can!

We are all struggling to learn all that we need to learn to make it possible to maximise each student’s learning. The best lesson we can show our children is that we are willing to be learners ourselves and that means being willing to make mistakes, being willing to ask for help, being willing to try and try again without giving up!

Speaking of being willing to learn, well done to the 20 parents who are now using the app ‘tiqbiz’. It is SO much EASIER than Care-Monkey, SO much EASIER than the school website. If you are thinking it is hard to use, think again! Its EASY. Give it a go. Better still, ask for help, get your child to help you. They are so much better at using technology than we are. They are truly intuitive about using new products.

By the way, those of you who read my last week’s article on homework, should now be able to see clearly why homework in its present form is just not helpful. You can also see why it is not possible, in the time we have at school, to tailor homework to meet individual needs! I am becoming more and more convinced that homework has to be completely re-thought for Primary School Students.

Christine Ash
The Principal
In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus encourages the people to love one another by bringing those who have done wrong back to the community. If people refuse to listen when they are approached, we should look to others for help, including the church. It speaks of how important reconciliation is for the well-being of the church.

It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to feel hurt or payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. A hurt that is not dealt with will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week’s gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us, but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.

Jesus also stresses the importance of praying together. Prayer brings people together and can heal the deepest wounds. Jesus assures us that whenever two or three pray together, Jesus is always there, and our prayers are always heard and answered. There is added strength in praying together as a community.

We need to watch out for one another, to forgive and to pray together.

CLASS LITURGIES

Friday 12th September: Foundation, Yr5 & Yr6 Learning Community will prepare and lead the 9.15am Mass.

Sunday 14th September: Yr5 & Yr6 Learning Community will be hosting Mass at 10:30am.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS:

Confirmation

There are many dates to remember in preparation for Confirmation. A reminder that the following forms and items are due. Keep checking for any new dates I will be adding as we get closer to Confirmation day.

It is important to attend mass regularly as part of Confirmation preparation. Thank you to the many families who have been regularly participating at the mass here at St Elizabeth’s. Remember there is a sign-in sheet at the back of the church.

God Bless.

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

EVENTS & FORMS

Confirmation Levy $25 for Lysterfield Reflection day, certificates, medals and classroom resources. To be paid to school office. Was due 15th August - Friendly reminder to pay ASAP

All other year 6 students $15 Levy for Lysterfield Reflection day and classroom resources. To be paid to school office. Was due 15th August - Friendly reminder to pay ASAP

Sacrament Enrolment forms (Purple form) These forms are due now. They are very important and need to be returned to school ASAP.

“Profiles for parishioners” permission form (optional) Friday 29th August

Student Profiles for parishioners (optional) Friday 5th September

Profiles for church display (optional) Friday 5th September or earlier

Lysterfield Reflection day Permission form Friday 12 September

Confirmation student activity packs

Confirmation Banners (optional) Friday 24th October or earlier

“Parent letter” to your Confirmation child Friday 24th October or earlier

LYSTERFIELD REFLECTION DAY

Bishop Elliott’s School Visit Thursday 23rd October

Family & Individual Confirmation Photos SUNDAY 9th November 11.00am-12.15pm

Group Confirmation Photo SUNDAY 9th November. Arrive 12.30pm, Photo 12.45 sharp.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY 9th November 1.00 pm
‘A great quote can convey BIG thoughts and sentiments in just a few small words.

+ “I know what a good man is because I saw it in my father.” Raimond Gaita.
+ “A father is someone who will play with you, even though he has friends his own age to play with.” Unknown.
+ “If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm.” Bruce Barton.
+ “Just do what we say, Dad, and no one will get hurt.” Two daughters.
+ “Your children need your presence more than your presents.” Jesse Jackson.
+ “The fundamental defect of fathers is that they want their children to be a credit to them.” Bertrand Russell.
+ “One of the unseen benefits of having children is that they deliver you from your own selfishness. There’s no going back.” Martin Amis.
+ “What a father says to his children is not heard by the world: but it will be heard by posterity.” Jean Paul Richter.
+ “When you have kids, there’s no such thing as quality time. There’s just time. There’s no, ‘Ooh, his graduation’s better than going to the mall.’ It’s all kind of equal. Changing her diaper and her winning a contest – it’s all good.” Chris Rock.
+ “My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person: he believed in me.” Jim Valvano.
+ “Having a kid is like falling in love for the first time when you’re 12, but every day.” Mike Myers.
+ “A man knows he is growing old because he begins to look like his father.” Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
+ “When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.” Mark Twain.
+ “I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.” Harry S. Truman.
+ “My sisters and I can still recite Dad’s grilling rules: Rule No. 1: Dad is in charge. Rule No. 2: Repeat Rule No. 1.” Connie Schultz.
+ “My father taught me that the only way you can make good at anything is to practice, and then practice some more.” Pete Rose.
+ “Before I got married I had six theories about raising children; now, I have six children and no theories.” John Wilmot.
+ “He has always provided me a safe place to land and a hard place from which to launch.” Chelsea Clinton.
+ “I just sit there and make up songs and sing to [my son] in gibberish. I’m very good at gibberish now.” Elton John.
+ “A (rad) dad is someone who carries a picture where his money used to be.” Rad for a Dad.
+ “The older I get the more I can see / how much he loved my mother and my brother and me / and he did the best that he could / and I only hope when I have my own family that everyday I see a little more of my father in me.” Keith Urban.

Wishing all those special father figures in our life a happy day on Sunday.
Last week we introduced a new app that we are using to help keep parents informed about school news and events. This app will help us send instant messages to the Whole School or selected groups, as well as post dates on our calendar and news feeds about events that have occurred at St Elizabeth's. When you download the app and create an account, you need to tick the areas of the school you would like to receive notifications from. Whole School is where we will send messages that are important for everyone in the school. Foundation, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 are for messages specifically related to those levels of the school.

Any parents that would like some assistance with setting up the app can come along after assembly on Monday morning where I will be available to help.

Rebecca Gage,
Learning and Teaching Leader,
gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
5 September 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
YOU CAN DO IT!

This weeks ‘You Can Do It’ star is Stella from 2RH because she has shown she can get along with others. She has been an excellent friend to everyone and always strives to get along with others. She has been working hard to be an independent learner, but is happy to help out others whenever they need a hand.

She has shown great organisation skills and is always ready to start the day with a Smile on her face.
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).
Parents of 2014 Foundation children are invited to:

come along to an afternoon tea.

Monday October 13th
2:15pm in The Nook.

For catering purposes, please complete and return this slip to school no later than Wednesday 8th October.

I / We

will be attending the Afternoon tea on Monday

October 13th 2:15pm in The Nook.
Community News ...

OPEN DAY
MAZENOD COLLEGE

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 14TH
9.30 AM–12.30 PM

Arrive anytime from 9:30 am,
last tour commences at 11:15 am.
Tours will run for
approximately 1 hour.

For more information please contact the College on (03) 9560 0911 or visit www.mazenod.vic.edu.au

Trivia Night
Nazareth College Parent’s Association

Friday 10th October 2014

6.30pm for a 7.00pm start
Café Naz
Nazareth College, Manning Drive
Noble Park North Vic 3174

Dress: Smart Casual

Bring along your friends, knowledge & a sense of fun

Tea / Coffee & Sweets provided
B.Y.O. Nibbles / Drinks /Glass

Cost: $15.00 pp
Book a table of 8 or
Individual tickets
Cash Only

Bookings Essential @Email: nazarethparentsassociation@gmail.com
OR Contact Serena on 0407 802 810
**St. Elizabeth’s Holiday Program**

**Monday 22nd September**
- Sandcastle building
- Card building
- Strawberry crumble
- Group activity: create a city using mixed media

**Tuesday 23rd September**
- Sports Day
  - Sand hill relay
  - Indoor Cricket
  - Long jump
  - Indoor soccer

**Wednesday 24th September**
- Sports Day: Fun
  - Paper cup wind chimes
  - Hanging bird feeder
  - Butterfly window decal
  - Relax with a movie & popcorn

**Thursday 25th September**
- Wood Craft Day Incursion
  - Wood car remote control
  - Windsor chair
  - Pen holder tool box

**Friday 26th September**
- Grand Final Footy Fever
  - Make your own footy banners & streamers and then play a game of Body contact and kicking
  - Footy parties
  - Footy pom poms

**Monday 29th September**
- Build & Create It
  - Create a map & treasure hunt for real
  - Create a windmill
  - Write a story
  - A game of Ship Shark/Shipwreck

**Tuesday 30th September**
- Alice in Pirates Day
  - Design a map and treasure hunt for real
  - Create a windmill
  - A game of Ship and Shark/Shipwreck

**Wednesday 1st October**
- Excursion: The Secret Garden
  - Design a map and treasure hunt for real
  - Create a windmill
  - A game of Ship and Shark/Shipwreck

**Thursday 2nd October**
- Kids in the Kitchen
  - Decorate and enjoy eating poster
  - Set up the room as a restaurant
  - Afternoon movie: "James & the Giant Peach"

**Friday 3rd October**
- Goodbye to the Holidays
  - BYO CD's & electronic games
  - Face painting
  - BYO pre-prepared food to share
  - Rhythm sticks
  - Play a variety of party games
### 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 ...

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<td>Monday 8th September, 2014</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Caterpillar Prints</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Splat Monsters</td>
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