Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and other Parishioners,

A very warm welcome to all our new students and their families and also to our students and families who have returned for another year of learning at St Elizabeth’s School. We hope all who left our school have had a great start to their year in a new place.

I would like to thank all of you who are reading this newsletter, as you are the informed members of the community who work in partnership with us to educate our students. Reading the newsletter helps in so many ways. You know what is going on for a start so your child/ren are organised and ready to do whatever they need to do to get the most out of their school day.

St Elizabeth’s school is always looking for ways to improve what we do and so there are constant changes. Our care and commitment never changes but our practices and policies and programs do. We make no apologies for always trying to do things better! When we make changes at our school we do so because we think that we have found a way of improving things and in the newsletter, the staff and I try to help you understand the reasons why we make changes.

Learning is a huge part of being a successful person and an effective member of the community in which we all live, work and learn. We all want our students to be successful. Not just in their future careers but as people. We want them to be able to love and be...
loved, we want them to be happy and fulfilled. We want them to contribute in a faith-filled way to making the world a better place. We want them to be the best possible person that they can become. Our children are our hope for the future! This means that in today’s world, the school and parents have to work closely together.

We now realise that learning is not limited to school time, children have access through technology to a great deal of learning. Learning is really only limited by the hours that you have to put aside for sleeping. The staff here try to assist you through the newsletter so that you can make the most of your opportunities to support children in this learning.

Here is what you can expect in the newsletter each week.

Maria Popowycz keeps you aware of the ways in which the children are learning about the Christian way of living, our Catholic traditions and what is happening in our church, in our own parish, our Archdiocese and our world.

Nan Perazzo gives you important insights into the health and wellbeing of young people.

Rebecca Gage gives you information to help you keep the children safe on the internet, she shares news of great online resources to enrich learning and she also gives you information about changes to our learning programs.

Dean Andrew keeps you up to date with sport news.

Trixie Martin shares what is happening in the community with Parents and Friends in particular.

Lisa Gray keeps us informed of things that are happening in the wider Dandenong Community with events and opportunities for all kinds of after school activities for students and families.

Elarine gives you all the information you and your child needs to know about the Out of School Care Program.

My role as Principal is to try to keep you informed of everything else! Some weeks I might write about Government initiatives affecting schools and education, and other weeks it might be about something that has happened in our school. Sometimes it’s about educational matters, sometimes it’s about life in general.

Many thanks to all who contribute to the Newsletter. You do a great job of helping everyone work together to give our students a rich learning environment.

We always welcome feedback so if you want to give feedback, please write to me at principal@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au or talk to me when you see me!

Communication is critical! Thank you so much for being one of those parents in our community that keeps in touch through the newsletter. You will get a Tiqbiz reminder each week that the Newsletter is online and ready to read. Thanks for making it a habit. I say thanks not just on behalf of the staff but also your child/ren. You are really helping them when you read it!

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The previous Victorian State Government changed it’s approach to funding for parents holding a healthcare card who had children at both primary or secondary schools. A decision was made that there would be no EMA after 2014. Parents with a Healthcare card at St Elizabeth’s school who had previously arranged for the EMA to be paid against their school fees will need to note that this assistance in paying off school fees is no longer available. This was all part of the move to the Gonski funding and schools were promised more funding if they qualified for it under a new needs-based formula.

St Elizabeth’s has received some additional funding but whether it replaces the full amount of our previous EMA allowance will not be known until the end of the following year. It is very hard to keep track as most of the money promised under the Gonski funding is not scheduled to come into schools until 2016.

Unfortunately, parents will feel the difference immediately!

Christine Ash
The Principal

PS. I am delighted to announce that my first grandchild arrived just before Christmas to the delight of everyone. Molly Rose and her parents are all thriving!
Welcome as we begin this new school year in 2015 with a focus on ‘Our Journey Together’. I am sure you have had a wonderful holiday, spending time with family and friends but now it is time to start a new year in 2015.

Term one will be a busy time with many whole school and community liturgies, activities and meetings happening over the next few weeks. It is that time when we need to start filling in calendars and diaries with dates and times to keep us up with all that is happening.

**STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS**
*Sunday 8th February 2015: 10.30am*

The staff of St Elizabeth’s will be formally commissioned by Fr Tad for our ongoing work in Catholic Education. This commissioning will be linked into the 10.30am parish Mass and we invite all the school community to join with us for this Mass. We will present our Vision Statement that we believe is reflective and inclusive of all who are part of the school community; the children, the teachers, with the many families, and the wider parish community. We believe this statement reflects the many and varied partnerships that we share here at St Elizabeth’s. We would like to invite all families to join us!

**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**
*Friday 13th February: 9:15am*

We will be celebrating the start of our school year with the whole school community. We also take this opportunity to welcome those families, who are new to the community, especially children in their first year of schooling. We would like to invite all families to join us!

**RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING**
*Wednesday 25th February: 7.00pm*

Reconciliation Parent Meeting will be at 7.00pm in the Church.

This meeting is for all parents of those children looking to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion over this year. If your child is new to our school community and is in Yr3 or Yr4, and has been baptized into the Catholic Church and has yet to make either of these sacraments, please get in touch with me over this coming week to enable us to enroll your child for these sacraments.

**SATURDAY HOSTING MASSES**

- **Nagle (Blue):** Saturday 21st March, 6.30pm
- **Polding (Green):** Saturday 13th June, 6.30pm
- **MacKillop (Red):** Saturday 8th August, 6.30pm
- **Chisholm (Gold):** Saturday 5th September, 6.30pm

We are very excited to announce that our school hosting Masses will be held on Saturday evenings 6.30pm instead of Sunday mornings. The school community, instead of attending in year levels, will come together as ‘House colours’ from Foundation to Yr6. Team spirit is built not only through sporting activities but in a variety of ways, and gathering together in prayer is another way. ‘House colours’ will gather together during hosting Masses and pray, not only for themselves and their community but also for the significant person in the Catholic Church that their ‘House colour’ was named after.

**Nagle (Blue)**
Named in memory of Nano Nagle the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Remembering the work of the Presentation Sisters in the early years of the Parish.

**Polding (Green)**
Named in memory of Archbishop John Bede Polding, the first Bishop of Australia and founder of the Good Samaritan Sisters. Remembering the work of Sister Elizabeth and the Good Samaritan sisters in the Parish.

**MacKillop (Red)**
Named in memory of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross founder of the Josephite Sisters. Remembering the work of Sister Helen and the Josephites in the Parish.

**Chisholm (Gold)**
Remembering the work of Caroline Chisholm; one who welcomed, supported and shared her life with those who were new to this country. In the spirit of St. Elizabeth who rejoiced and welcomed Mary, the mother of Jesus.

There will be 4 hosting Masses, one for each of our sport team colours. Children from the same family will all be in only one house colour. We are looking forward to seeing each of the house teams from Foundation to Yr6 gather together to celebrate liturgy together.

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

Each year at St. Elizabeth’s we commence our school year with SWEL Week, a time for teachers and students to get to know one another, to build a sense of connectedness and belonging for all and a time to reflect on what we all need to be mindful of to look after our own and everyone else’s wellbeing. The affiliations and personal connections we have with significant others have a powerful impact on our sense of belonging, self worth and attachment.

Social and Emotional Learning is the process through which we learn to recognize and manage our emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly, develop positive relationships and avoid negative behaviors.

Research tells us there is a strong and mutual interconnection between wellbeing and learning. Strong social and emotional skills facilitate academic development and enhance a student’s success both at school and in the life pursuits that follow. Students who are socially competent are more likely to have productive relationships with teachers and peers and this positive social interaction enhances intellectual skills such as problem solving and tolerance.

Social and Emotional learning enhances the following:

- **Self awareness.** The ability to recognize one’s emotions and values as well as one’s strengths and limitations.
- **Responsible decision making.** The ability to make ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior.
- **Relationship skills.** Being able to form positive relationships, work in teams and deal effectively with conflict.
- **Social Awareness.** Being able to show understanding and empathy for others.
- **Self Management.** The ability to manage emotions and behavior and to achieve one’s goals.

Transition experiences are critical moments in determining students’ wellbeing and learning and so the opportunities and experiences of SWEL Week ensure that each student’s transition to their new learning community is a positive and successful experience.

Teachers play an important role in fostering engagement and wellbeing and ensuring that all students are able to achieve their best and enjoy their educational experiences.

‘By providing a supportive and nurturing environment, schools contribute to the development of students’ sense of self worth, enthusiasm for learning and optimism for the future.’ The Adelaide Declaration on National Goals for Schooling in Australia in the Twenty First Century (MCEETYA 2000).

Some of the features of our SWEL Week include:

- Revisiting and unpacking our Wellbeing, Discipline and Anti Bullying policies.
- Discussing our school values - Mutual Respect, Shared Responsibility, Social Equality, Cooperation.
- Learning about who are our peers and our teachers and what are the things they enjoy doing and where have their families come from.
- Learning about ourselves and our learning styles.
- Devising our learning community mission statement and agreeing on expectations of one another and others in our school community.
- Unpacking the five foundations of the You Can Do It Program - Confidence, Organization, Persistence, Confidence, Getting Along and Resilience, the accompanying habits of mind - Social Responsibility, Playing by the Rules, Thinking First, Being Tolerant of Others, Planning my Time, Setting Goals, Giving Effort, Working Tough, I Can Do It, Being Independent, Taking Risks and Accepting Myself and the five blockers to success and happiness - Feeling very Angry - Misbehaving, Not Paying Attention - Disturbing Others, Procrastination, Feeling Very Worried and Feeling Down.
- Enjoying a whole school wellbeing fun activity morning and shared morning tea.
- Enjoying a buddy activity morning.

It is indeed a swell week for everyone!

Nan Perazzo
Wellbeing Coordinator
Learning and Teaching …

We use TiqBiz to communicate with you and you can use it to communicate with us too. Already this week we have sent messages to the Whole School community about School Banking and the School Canteen. We have also sent pictures out to Foundation parents of their students enjoying their dancing and specialist lessons. If you think you should have received these messages and haven’t, you might need to check that you have selected the correct groups. Here is how to do it:

1. **By pressing Menu** in the top left corner of your screen you will be taken to this page. Select “find&tick”.

2. **Start typing the school name.**
3. Select the school name when it appears.

4. The groups you will receive notifications from will be highlighted in green. Those you will not receive notifications from will be grey.

   Touching the tick will change it from grey to green OR from green to grey.

   Please make sure you have selected Whole School and the levels you have students in.

Rebecca Gage
Learning and Teaching Leader
gagere@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au
Sport News ...

Hi all and welcome to 2015.

On Wednesday our entire school participated in a fun filled activities morning. We all rotated around different stations and played games such as "Screamer", Volleyball, Egg-Ball and the reviled (but strangely loved) Toilet Tiggy!

The activities were mostly games students are able to play in the playground during playtime and we hope this will give them the knowledge and confidence to take part in active pursuits in their free time.

Yours in Sport
Dean Andrew

School News ...

Parents and Friends

All welcome to come along and have a chat over a cuppa.

We would like to welcome all families, existing and new, back for a fun and fantastic year.

We are a group of parents who come together once a month and discuss various fundraisers which we can do at the school.

At the moment we are raising funds so we can purchase lighting for the stage in the PAC.

Our next P & F meeting will be on the 9th February 2015 at 2.15pm in The Nook. (Library)

Our AGM will be held on the 23rd February 2015 after morning school assembly in the level 4 link.

School Uniform

Please note that there has been a slight change in the price of the uniforms due to the manufacturer increasing his prices. Please see the new uniform order form in this newsletter.
**School Banking Day ~ Change of banking day**

School banking for 2015 will now be on TUESDAYS.

Don’t forget to bring your bank deposit book for school banking on a Tuesday. You can also bring the deposit book for any older or younger siblings who do not attend the school.

Remember to put your new class on the front of the book. Thank you for supporting the School Banking program.

**St. Elizabeth’s Netball Club**

- Season runs from 21\textsuperscript{st} February 2015 to 1st August 2015.
- Any boys or girls turning 8 in 2015 can join.
- Cost. $95 + $50 uniform.
- Game times at Dandenong Netball Club:
  - 9.30am - 11 & under
  - 10.30am - 13 & under
  - 11.30am - 15 & under

Registration night will be on Wednesday 11th February at 3.30pm on St E’s school courts. If parents are unable to attend the registration night, please feel free to contact Melinda on her mobile 0459 444 463 and she will do the registration over the phone.

We will give out more information regarding training etc. on the registration day.

Any parents interested in coaching or joining the committee please contact Melinda on 0459 444 463 or Collette on 0439 703 955.

**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
Annual General Meeting 2015

You are invited to ...

St. Elizabeth’s Parent’s Association
Annual General Meeting 2015
Monday 23rd February 2015 at 9am

The AGM will commence straight after morning assembly in the Level 4 Learning Link, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

The AGM offers an opportunity to be updated on the previous year’s results, and enjoy a chat over a cuppa and biscuit with other parents and Trixie Martin ~ our staff representative.

If you are interested in nominating for a position on the committee, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to the school office by Thursday 19th February.

Alternatively, you may put forth your nomination at the AGM.

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS PORTION BY THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2015

Attention: Secretary, St. Elizabeth’s Parents and Friends Association.

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ______________________

Contact No: ___________________

I wish to nominate for the position of: (please tick box)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Committee Member</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Helper</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annual General Meeting 2015

St. Elizabeth’s Parents & Friends
Role Description

President
Conduct monthly meetings. Receive and respond with relevant correspondence. Delegate and oversee duties if/when necessary.

Vice President
Assist Chairperson with his/her duties.

Treasurer
Record all incoming/outgoing monies and forward to School Bursar.

Assistant Treasurer
Assist Treasurer with his/her duties.

Secretary
Receive and respond to correspondence as directed. Take minutes at meetings. Circulate monthly Minutes to Committee Members.

Assistant Secretary
Assist Secretary.

Uniform Shop Helper

General Fundraising Committee
Have input into general running of Fundraiser Activities. Assist with general duties and Fundraising Events where possible. Vote on ideas of different Fundraisers. Make suggestions of other Fundraising ideas.
Let's Dance

Quality tuition for all ages in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Funk/Hip Hop, Acrobatics, Song & Dance, Cheerleading and Contemporary

Established over 60 years
C.S.T.D. exams available
Cabarets & concerts

Classes held at Lyndale Secondary College,
Cnr Halton & Gladstone Rds, Dandenong North

For enquiries please phone Sherall on 9547 3523 or Alicia on 0400 877 368
or send an email to aliciaberriman@bigpond.com
# ST. ELIZABETH’S PARISH SCHOOL

## UNIFORM ORDER FORM

**Uniform Shop Opening Times:**
- Tuesday: Morning only 8.45am to 9.15am
- Friday: Morning only 8.45am to 9.15am

**All children are expected to wear the correct school uniform at all times.**

St. Elizabeth’s hats are compulsory in Terms 1 & 4.

<table>
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<th>Uniform Item</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Waiting</th>
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<td>Polo (Short Sleeve)</td>
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<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>Large</td>
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<td>Winter Beanie</td>
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<td>Socks</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**Child’s Name & Class:**

______________________________

**Date Ordered:**

_____/_____/

**Paid in Full:**

Yes / No

**Method of Payment:**

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contact Details ...</th>
<th>Weekly Activities ...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth’s Out of School Hours Care Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111 Bakers Road, Dandenong North</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph: 0422 803 709 / 0426 282 721</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Before School Care</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent: $12.00 / Casual: $13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00am to 8.55am Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.</td>
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<td><strong>After School Care</strong></td>
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<td>Permanent: $13.50 / Casual: $14.50</td>
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<td>3.15pm to 6.15pm Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian public holidays.</td>
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<td><strong>Vacation Care / Pupil Free Days</strong>:</td>
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<td>Per Day: $45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. (No vacation care available in January.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Late Pick Up Fees</strong></td>
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<td>Per minute: $1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>For enquiries or further information, please contact Elarine on 0422 803 709 or 0426 282 721 during session times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Beginning: Monday 9th February 2015               |                                                   |
| **Monday**                                       |                                                   |
| Dotty paintings, Fruit bowl fun                  |                                                   |
| **Tuesday**                                      |                                                   |
| Make an abstract painting                        |                                                   |
| **Wednesday**                                    |                                                   |
| Mirror printing, Easy butterfly print            |                                                   |
| **Thursday**                                     |                                                   |
| Sponge stamps                                    |                                                   |
| **Friday**                                       |                                                   |
| Movie                                            |                                                   |