Dear families,

Lent is the period before Easter in which we prepare to remember Jesus’ suffering and sacrifice for us. We do this through reflection, prayer and our own sacrifice either by fasting/abstinence or giving to others. During Lent we attempt to make time in our often busy lives to reflect on what Easter means and why we are preparing for it. Throughout Lent we will come together each week as a school community to pray and reflect. These Lenten Prayer Services will be held on a Monday morning at 8:50am in the hall and you are all most welcome to join us in prayer.

We have many students at school who have severe allergies to particular foods, many of these are nut related. For some of the students with severe allergies they do not need to ingest the food themselves, just come into contact with someone who has. We ask that all parents consider this when making lunches preparing snacks and supplying birthday cakes/lollies for your children.

Many notes are sent home to parents throughout the week, to assist you in determining the importance of the various notices we will be instituting a colour system from next Monday, 25th February.

- White = Office letters and notices
- Buff = Office letters to be returned
- Red = Urgent office letters
- Yellow = Classroom and Curriculum notices
- Blue = Classroom and curriculum notices to be returned
- Pink = Parents and Friends letters and notices

The newsletter will continue to be printed on white paper however there may, from time to time, be sections we ask you to complete and return to school.

Friday 8th March will be a school closure day. On this day staff will be attending offsite professional development in the area of Mathematics. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter we are part of a Mathematics project conducted by the Catholic Education Office. The day on March 8th is an integral part of this project. The school office will be closed on this day.

From this week all children must wear a hat when outside at recess and lunch, sport and outside class activities. Hats must be one of the school varieties, either a school bucket hat, school wide brim hat or school legionnaire hat. Hats must be worn properly at all times and not held in pockets or on the ground where children are playing. The rule NO HAT NO PLAY will be enforced and children without an appropriate school hat will be asked to return inside. The uniform shop will be open tomorrow morning for anyone who needs to purchase a school hat.

Have a great week everyone

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL

DROP OFF ZONE
A letter went out today about the Drop Off Zone in the car park. This will be unavailable from Thursday 21st February until the end of Term 1 due to works on the gates and church surrounds.

Parents who would normally drop off their children will have to find an alternative place to park and drop them off.

Staff will continue to be on duty at the front of the school before and after school.

Reflection
The Father of mercies has given us a model of unselfish love in the sufferings of his only Son. Through our service of God and neighbour may we receive his countless blessings. AMEN
CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Once again, the Canteen is asking for volunteers to help out in the Canteen during the year.

As the school becomes larger in size, so too does the need for extra volunteers. Where one person’s help was enough, we now need two. Also, for any new families wanting to help out, it’s a great way to meet other parents, as well as assisting the school. If you are able to assist on either a Monday, Tuesday or Friday, your help would be greatly appreciated. Rosters are being prepared shortly, so if you are able to assist, please return this slip by this coming Friday. Thank you.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The PFA is an important association, not only because of the funds it raises to support school programs but also because of the opportunities these occasions provide for socialising and developing relationships with others within the school community.

We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone who would like to contribute to this association. At 9am on Thursday 28th February we will have a cup of tea and a chat to discuss the activities this committee engages in throughout the year and to meet and welcome new members. We invite you to come along and see if this is a committee you would be able to contribute to. To show your interest please fill in the slip below and return to school.

St Catherine’s Parents & Friends Association

☐ I am interested and I can attend the morning tea on Thursday 28th February.
☐ I am interested but I am unable to attend the meeting.

Name: ____________________________ [Please Print]  Tel: ____________________

Education Maintenance Allowance — 2013

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

~ be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

~ be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (January 29, 2013) and Term 3 (15 July, 2013).

EMA application forms are available from the School Office

Please provide a copy of your Concession Card

Closing date is Thursday, February 28

Late applications will not be accepted by the Department of Education

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER SLIP

I can assist in the Canteen during Term One on the following days: (Please tick)

MONDAY [ ]  TUESDAY [ ]  FRIDAY [ ]

Name: ____________________________  Telephone No: ____________________________
Swimming Carnival

Event: 2013 MPSSA Swimming Carnival
Venue: Melton Waves Pool
Date: Tuesday March 5
Cost: $8.00 per child
Letters went home with children who qualified

FOUND

An iPod was handed in to the School Office. It was found at the school crossing on Monday February 11.

FAMILY SUMMARY REPORTS

Family Summary Reports were sent home to each family. Just a reminder that all forms are now overdue,
Please return these forms as soon as possible
We appreciate your prompt return of these forms.

Literacy News

Thursday February 21st is International Mother Tongue Day.

Languages are the most powerful instruments for preserving and developing the cultures of all people. Through languages we develop and ensure cultural diversity. We achieve high quality education for all. We work together to build inclusive societies and strengthen cooperation amongst peoples of all race and creed.

I encourage you to mark and celebrate Mother Tongue Day. It is important to celebrate the languages of all the mothers of the world and send them the message that they have the right to speak their own language to their children, because they have important things to say in that language to their children. Please take the time to speak with your family in your Mother Tongue, share stories and memories, talk over dinner together and celebrate your cultural heritage.
CDF STUDENT BANKING

Thursday is our banking day. Deposit books are to be handed in to class or the Office by 9.00am on banking day. Encourage your child to save by opening up a CDF Banking account.

**Application forms are available from the Office.**

**Uniform News**

*New stock has now arrived at the uniform shop.*

- **Size 6, 8 & 10 polo shirts are now available.**
- **Bucket hats Size medium are also available.**

*Uniform shop is open every Monday & Wednesday 8.30am—9.00 am*

**SECOND HAND UNIFORMS FOR SALE**

- Windcheaters, Polo Tops, Shorts, School Jacket

Call: Susan on 0421 372 246

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**FEBRUARY / MARCH CALENDAR**

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<td>Lenten Prayer</td>
<td>Class Mass 5/6N &amp; 5/6P- 9.15am</td>
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<td>3 Third Sunday of Lent</td>
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<td>8:50am Hall</td>
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<td>Lenten Prayer</td>
<td>Class Mass 3/4Q &amp; 3/4S -9.15am</td>
<td>Prep &amp; Buddy Picnic 6pm</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY</td>
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<td>Fourth Sunday of Lent</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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<td>Julie Hall</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>Stacey Wetzler</td>
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<td>Liz Eagle</td>
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<td>Julie Gruis</td>
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<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Jamie Turner</td>
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**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

riwarth Health Services operates a public school dental service, which is currently located at Melton Health, 195-209 Barries Rd, Melton West.

Children from pre-school age to Grade 6 are eligible for the service. The service is **FREE** for children who are eligible for concession, or a co-payment fee of $30 is payable for those who are not eligible.

Bookings can be made on the Referral and Appointment Hotline number - 9747 7609