Dear Families,

This coming Sunday we celebrate the First Week of Advent, a sign that we are now in the Season of Advent and are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. In this busy end of year and pre-Christmas time it is important to reflect on the message of Christmas, it is a time to reflect on God’s plan for us and to thank him for his love and mercy. A time to be thankful for the gift of his Son, who put aside his glory to become human and stand alongside us, and ultimately offer his life for our redemption, the ultimate gift of love.

One way of reflecting during Advent is through the Advent Wreath which is rich in imagery and a visual representation of our inner reflections and thoughts. The wreath is made of various evergreen leaves, these signify eternal life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God and everlasting life to be found in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent as well as a different aspect of our rich faith. The first candle lit is purple and is called the Prophets Candle or Candle of Hope in remembrance of the prophets who foretold of the birth of Christ. We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God.

“And again, Isaiah says, ‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:12-13) Next Monday we will have an Advent Liturgy in the Church at 8:55am and you are most welcome to join us for this liturgy.

A reminder to everyone that this Friday we have our sports day and we would love to have you join us on this day. The children are all asked to come in their team colours and I’m sure they would love their family members to come similarly dressed.

Have a great week.

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL
Whole School Picnic

On Friday, 11th December we are planning a whole school picnic for the students and families at Maddingly Park, Maddingly. This is a whole school community event and we would love to see you there to celebrate the end of the year with us.

Date: Friday 11th December 2015
Venue: Maddingly Park, Maddingly VIC 3340
Time: 8:50am-3:15pm for students going on the bus. Students coming with parents, the picnic begins at approx. 9:30am and conclude at approx. 2:00pm
Snack and lunch arrangements: Children need to bring food for the day as per usual: a healthy snack and lunch as well as a drink bottle of water
Clothing: Students will need to wear their full sports uniform and bring their school hat and sunscreen.

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will be held on 14th December at 6.30pm in the school hall. We will also be drawing the Christmas Raffle at this event. Please keep this date free. More information will follow shortly.
Thank you, Ms. Jodie Russell
Performing Arts Teacher

Last Chance Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all who have supported the Gold Coast holiday raffle. The response so far has been fantastic. The final date to return ticket stubs, monies and unsold tickets is Monday December 7. At this stage we still have a number of books outstanding. We would appreciate your assistance by returning all monies and tickets (including unsold tickets) to school by Monday, December 7. As this raffle is a registered one we need to account for all the tickets issued. Thank you for your understanding and your efforts in supporting this raffle.

SCHOOL FEES

Instalment 3 for the Family Fee and Curriculum Fee are now well overdue and the end of the school year is fast approaching. Please attend to any outstanding fees as soon as possible.
All 2015 school fees should be finalised by the end of the school year.

Canteen News

With the year almost over its time to look back at what has been an amazing time. This was my first year running both CRC and St Catherine’s canteens. It has been a pleasure working with your children and supplying lunches and snacks for them.

Our last day this year for the canteen will be Tuesday 15th December, for both counter sales and lunch orders.
I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and safe new year and holidays. Have fun and I will see you all in 2016.
Karen, Marg and Jasmine.

Sports Day

8.50am: Students, dressed in team colours, go to class as usual
9.00am: All classes meet on the turf for relays and parent race
10.25am: Activities stop for recess. Students go back to their classroom for recess
11.10am: After recess students go to class lines as usual, make their way to Westlake Reserve and line up in house teams
11.20am: Activities start
1.05pm: Activities stop, students line up in class lines to go back to classrooms for lunch
2.00pm: Lunch finishes, students go to class lines as usual and make their way back to the turf area for House relay
2.40pm: Activities finish, students line up in class lines and make their way over to hall for presentations
2.55pm: Presentations
3.10pm: Students go back to classrooms for dismissal at 3.15pm

We would love to have you join us and come dressed in your child’s team colours.
Grade 2 Pizza and Movie Night

The year 2 participated in a variety of games including, team building hula hoop games, balloon volley ball, charades and musical statues. The film they voted on and watched was 'Shark boy and Lava girl', which they all really enjoyed.
## TERM 4 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Nov Wk. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Prep 2016 Transition session</em></td>
<td><em>Class Mass Preps</em></td>
<td><em>CRC Prep Party with some of Prep D</em></td>
<td><em>Sports Day</em></td>
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<td>1st Week Of Advent</td>
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<td>30 Nov Wk. 9</td>
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<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>4 Dec</td>
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<td>6 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Wk. 1 Advent Liturgy 8:55am - Yr. 6</em></td>
<td><em>Prep 2016 Transition session</em></td>
<td><em>No Class Mass loud shirt day</em></td>
<td><em>Wk. 2 Advent Liturgy 2:30pm - Yr. 5</em></td>
<td><em>Wk. 2 Advent Liturgy 2:30pm</em></td>
<td><em>Yr. 3&amp;4 Kitchen Garden Program Celebration</em></td>
<td>2nd Week Of Advent</td>
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<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>13 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Wk. 3 Advent Liturgy 8:55am - Yr. 3&amp;4</em></td>
<td><em>Christmas raffle Tickets Due</em></td>
<td><em>End of Year Whole School Thanksgiving Mass</em></td>
<td><em>Year 6 Big Day Out at MSAC</em></td>
<td><em>School Picnic at Maddingly Park</em></td>
<td><em>Reports to go home</em></td>
<td>3rd Week Of Advent</td>
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<td>14 Dec Wk. 11</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
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<td>18 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Wk. 4 Advent Liturgy 8:55am - Yr. 1&amp;2</em></td>
<td><em>Christmas Concert</em></td>
<td><em>Transition to 2016 classes</em></td>
<td><em>Last day for students</em></td>
<td><em>Last day for Staff</em></td>
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<td>4th Week Of Advent</td>
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### We’re Calling On You

Some of our Year 3 students, Jackson, Joel and Ryan, are extremely passionate about wildlife, and are wanting to help the environment by minimising the cutting of trees so animals like gorillas have a habitat.

They have researched and worked really hard and held a “They're Calling On you” awareness day today to spread awareness that Gorillas are an endangered species because of poaching and loss of habitat.

If you would like to contribute to this wonderful cause you may donate an old mobile phone that you no longer use. Please return it to school in the zip lock bag that was attached to a note that went out to all families last week.

Please ensure you label the bag with your name, contact details and phone model. Please make sure all contacts, photos and messages have been deleted.

### Loud Shirt Day

The student leadership team has organized a fundraising day for Wednesday the 2nd of December. On this day, students and teachers are welcome to come along to school with a bright/loud shirt. Please bring along a gold coin donation if you are wearing a loud shirt. The money that is raised will be put towards a present or hamper to be bought by each class to go under our St. Catherine’s Giving Tree.
MELTON PARISH
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2015

“Come Home for Christmas”
St Catherine of Siena Church
Bulmans Rd Melton West

CHRISTMAS MASSES

| Christmas Eve | Thursday 24th December | 6.00pm, 9.00pm & Midnight |
| Christmas Day | Friday 25th December   | 9.00am & 11.00am          |

Carols will precede all Masses

|                     | Saturday 26th December | 6pm                     |
|                     | Sunday 27th December   | 9am & 11am              |
|                     |                         | 5pm St Dominic's        |

| New Years Eve       | Thursday 31st December | 7pm                     |

RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation
Thursday 17th December at 7.30pm

Individual Reconciliation
Saturday 5th December    5.15pm - 5.45pm
Saturday 12th December   5.15pm - 5.45pm
Saturday 19th December   5.15pm - 5.45pm

The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 24th December 2015 until Wednesday 27th January 2016
ST CATHARINE OF SIENA PARENTS AND FRIENDS FUNDRAISER

The Lunch Wallet and Insulated All Rounder are re-usable alternatives to the brown paper bag. The bags both have zippered pockets to place your lunch order and money into safely. Both have a plastic pocket to slide your name/class label into so it is clearly displayed. When not in use, the bags fold down into a wallet and are secured closed with Velcro. When in use, the bags unfold into a flat based lunch bag which holds a large amount of food and even a drink!

“Lunch Wallets” come in black with your choice of pink, blue, green, red, grey, yellow or purple binding. blue, green, red, grey, yellow or purple binding.

Name: _________________________________ Class: __________

**Don’t forget to ask family, friends & neighbours if they would like to order as well.

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<tr>
<th>STYLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Re-Usable Lunch Order Bags</td>
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<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Blue x</td>
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<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Pink x</td>
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<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Green x</td>
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<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Red x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Yellow x</td>
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<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Grey x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Wallet - Black/Purple x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insulated All Rounder - Black/</td>
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<td>Insulated All Rounder - Black/</td>
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TOTAL AMOUNT $
BASKETBALL PLAYERS WANTED!

AGES 6 - 18
EVERYONE WELCOME

BOYS & GIRLS
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

We are looking for Girls and Boys ages 6 - 18 to become a part of our growing basketball club. No prior basketball experience necessary, all kids are welcome! Come join us and learn some great skills, make new friends, have some fun and become part of a team! Not sure if it's for you? Why not come along to our Tuesday training sessions, and see what you think. We would love you to become a part of our club!

For further information please call or SMS
Michaela 0419 117 553 or email knights@meltonbasketball.com.au
check us out on Facebook
www.facebook.com/KnightsBasketballClub
My Parents ‘n’ Me
Supporting children after family separation

Children whose parents have separated may be affected by numerous stressful experiences.

Many children who experience parental separation cope well with the changes over time. However, some children will experience difficulties along the way and require support to help them build resilience.

My Parents ‘n’ Me is about helping children to understand their parents’ separation, to adapt to changes in the family and to feel safe and comfortable to express themselves.

My Parents ‘n’ Me sessions:
• are age appropriate with children divided into two groups (ages 6-10 and 10-12)
• allow children to gain more insight into their own approach to painful issues as they freely select a balance between watchfulness and participation in group activities
• give children the opportunity to talk to a neutral person about the changes in their family and share their experiences with other children in similar situations
• can assist children to develop resilience and coping strategies.

Dates
Four sessions per group from 4 - 5:30pm on Thursdays:
4, 11, 18, 25 February 2016.

Course location
Sunshine Family Relationship Centre
1 Clarke Street, Sunshine Victoria

Bookings and information
For more information and to make a booking, speak to a staff member at reception at the Sunshine Family Relationship Centre, phone (03) 9313 0444 or email enquiries@sunshinefrc.org.au