Dear Families,

Catholic Education Week commences on Sunday March 15th. The theme this year is *Seek God with all your heart*. This is a time to celebrate the diversity found in Catholic schools and the richness of skills and experiences we can share with each other. It is also a time to come together as a Catholic community in liturgy and celebration. On Tuesday 17th March the Christian Service Team will represent the school at the Mass for Schools which will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

Earlier this year a flyer was attached to the newsletter (Feb 3rd) with information on an Emergency Alert and Warning System which will be used to alert people of an emergency occurring near their vicinity. With many children now having their own phone it is important that they know what to do if they receive a message. Points from the flyer are - Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert system. If they receive a warning message on the home phone or a warning text on their personal mobile, encourage them to stay calm and show or repeat the message to a responsible adult they know, such as a relative or teacher. If adults are not around, encourage them to follow the action given in the alert. For more information about the system, visit emergencyalert.gov.au and watch the video (it’s in 30 languages). In an emergency, do not rely just on your phone for a warning. *Stay aware of your surroundings* *Listen to local radio* *Visit emergency.vic.gov.au* *Download the FireReady app* *Go to facebook.com/cfavic* *Follow @CFA_Updates on Twitter*

A reminder also that **Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March will be school closure days**. On these days staff will work with Catholic Education staff to prepare for our school review in June.

**Friday March 13th is National Ride2School Day.** This is a great way to encourage activity and exercise and a fun way for children to get to school. To encourage more children to ride a bike or scooter or walk to school we will be having a lap of honour which all who ride a bike or scooter or who walk to school can participate in. Of course all children who ride a bike or scooter to school should wear the appropriate safety gear such as helmets, and while children are encouraged to ride to school, once they enter the school grounds they must walk their bike/scooter to the bike rack. It is also advised that all bikes and scooters are secured with some type of bike chain and lock when left at the bike rack during school. While we will do all we can to find a lost bike, it is not always possible to recover it once taken.

Have a great week everyone

Carmel Marantelli  
PRINCIPAL

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**SCHOOL FEES**

Fees For 2015 will be **$1200** per family plus the Curriculum Fee of **$275** per child. The Curriculum Fee is due now so we ask that you finalise this as soon as possible. Statements detailing opening balances and yearly fees will go out within the coming weeks.

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**Lenten Reflection**

Receive the cross on your forehead. Learn to know Christ and follow him.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.  
Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.  
Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.
**FAMILY SUMMARY REPORTS**

Family Summary Reports are now overdue. If you have not returned your form please ensure that all details are correct and your email address is up to date and return your form by the end of this week, we appreciate your prompt return of these forms.

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**Sports News**

Some of our senior students will be involved in Interschool Sports this Friday, February 27th.

Games will be held here at St Catherine of Siena between 11.30am – 1.15pm

Parents are welcome to come and watch the games.

Mr Sage

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**Prep Buddy Picnic**

This year we are inviting all Prep and Year Six children and parents to attend a Buddy picnic. It would be great to see all buddies attend to give you the opportunity to meet your child’s buddy, someone who will be very important in your child’s life this year.

The Buddy picnic will take place this Friday 27th February at 6:00pm. Depending on the weather we will meet on the new turf area where children can introduce their parents to their buddy, before eating dinner. We ask families to bring their own picnic rug and dinner. Children will have the opportunity to play some games with their buddies, which will give parents a chance to meet and get to know each other.

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**UNIFORM NEWS**

Winter Uniform stock is now available to purchase from uniform shop. Winter uniforms are compulsory in Term 2 and Term 3

Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday and Friday 8.30am-9.00pm

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Raffle tickets are $1 each, these will be sent to all families shortly.

We also ask all families to donate either an Easter egg/bunny.

Raffle money and donations are due back at the school no later than 20th March 2015.

Easter raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 25th March 2015.

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**SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS**

Wednesday, March 4th & Thursday March 5th
February & March 2015

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<th>23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Swimming Sports</td>
<td>*Preps not at school</td>
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<td>*Year 7 2016 Applications Close</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Whole school assembly 2.45pm  *prep/buddy picnic 6.00pm</td>
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<td>*Review Closure Day</td>
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<td>*Lent Liturgy Wk.3 9am Led by Grade 4</td>
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<td>*Review Closure Day</td>
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<td>*Whole school assembly 2.45pm</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>*Lent Liturgy Wk.4 9am Led by Grade 3  *National Ride2School Day</td>
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<td>Whole school assembly 2.45pm</td>
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<td>*Labor Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Christian service team to represent our school at Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral</td>
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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**CRC INTERVIEWS YEAR 7 2016**

All new families who have put in an application to enrol their child at Catholic Regional College Melton for **Year 7 2016** are advised that they need to contact the Parish Office on 9743 6515 to arrange an interview with Father Michael in the month of February.

**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

Djerriwarrh 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

**Parish Raffle**

WOW…..LOOK AT THE FANTASTIC PRIZES

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2015

Tickets—$2 each - Drawn 22/5/2015

Raffle profit is for the cost of the New Stations of the Cross Garden

Support your Parish

1st Prize: Toyota Corolla Ascent Sport
2nd Prize: Toyota Yaris YR
3rd Prize: Toyota Yaris YR
4th & 5th Prize: $1,000 Coles/Myer Gift Card
6th-14th Prizes: $500 Coles/Myer Gift Card

Raffle Tickets are available from the school office
Project Compassion – Just Leadership Day

Last Thursday we hosted a special day at St Catherine’s called the ‘Just Leadership Day’. We learnt about Social Justice and how it is our responsibility to look after others who need our help, especially the poor and vulnerable. Megan from Caritas Australia facilitated this day. Caritas Australia organises Project Compassion.

We learnt that we are very fortunate in Australia to have things such as good health care, housing, education and nutrition. Many children in poor countries don’t have these things.

A guest speaker from Peru showed us how a Caritas project group in Peru has helped families in the Andes Mountains to improve their health by providing chimneys for their kitchens to stop their houses filling with smoke when they cook. Also, as there is very little rainfall in the Andes, Caritas has helped farmers by assisting them to build water pipes to irrigate their crops. The children of these families now have better health because they have more to eat and can go to school more often because they do not need to spend time helping their families to get water for their crops.

The theme for Project Compassion this year is ‘Food for Life’. We have planned some activities to help raise awareness about Project Compassion and to raise money for this during Lent. One of our ideas is to have ‘50cent Fridays’. Many students have lunch orders and money to spend at the Canteen on Fridays. We thought it would be a good day to encourage everyone to think about the needs of others by putting some of their spending money into the Project Compassion box on this day; at least 50cents.

Please support ‘50cent Fridays’. We will keep you updated on how much we raise. Thankyou from the Christian Service Team
YOUR HELP & FRIENDSHIP NEEDED!

Can you speak, read and write English confidently? Do you enjoy meeting people from other cultures? Can you spare 2 hours each week to help someone?

IF SO, A NEW ARRIVAL WOULD LOVE YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND HELP TO LEARN ENGLISH.

FREE TRAINING AND ONGOING SUPPORT PROVIDED.

NO EXPERIENCE or QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY!

For more information, please contact:

ROSEMARY HARMAN on 9366-0433
at AMES Volunteer Tutor Program,
16 Victoria Square,
St Albans
Email: harmanr@ames.net.au

The AMES Volunteer Tutor Program is funded by the Australian government to provide English support to newly arrived adult migrants. Tutors provide the language support that enables these people to settle into the community.
Important Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Dates</th>
<th>Monday, 30 March 2015 to Friday, 10 April 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Hours</td>
<td>9:30am to 3:30pm daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>New Location, Bridge Rd Children’s and Community Centre, 280 Bridge Road, Melton South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolments Open</td>
<td>8:30am - Wednesday, 25 February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolments Close and Payments Due</td>
<td>5pm - Wednesday, 18 March 2015. Enrolments submitted after this date will only be accepted at Supervisor’s discretion and if spaces are available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$20.60 per day prior to Child Care Benefit being applied. Excursions and incursions will incur an additional cost. For further information on program costs, refer below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enquiries</td>
<td>Vacation Care Program on 9747 7300</td>
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How to Book
1. Enrolment forms can be collected in person at Customer Service at the Melton Civic Centre or Melton Library. Forms can be mailed upon request.
2. Completed forms can be returned to Customer Service at the Melton Civic Centre, by mail or by email at VacationCarePrograms@melton.vic.gov.au.
3. Successful bookings will be confirmed by email with an initial statement. The statement will advise the estimated cost of the program and the date the fees must be paid in full. If fees are not paid by this date, your allocated place will be offered to a family on the waiting list.
4. Bookings are allocated in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Priority of Access Guidelines. The booking procedure is designed to provide fair and equitable access to the Vacation Care Program for families who work, live or send their children to school within the municipality. Families residing outside the City of Melton may also apply.
5. Ensure that you have registered for Child Care Benefit (CCB) if you wish to claim reduced fees. For further information, contact the Department of Human Services on 13 15 50. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

Full fees are listed above. To find if you are entitled to a reduction in charges, go to: https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enables/online_submits

For example, if you are entitled to 50 hours a week of child care with 100% CCB, you will only pay $10.78 a day per child (plus incursion/Excursion fee for up to 30 hours of care).

Ongoing Rating
- Our program holds an Exceeding rating in all seven quality areas. Ratings and assessment are conducted by the Quality Assessment and Regulation Division of the Department of Education and Training.

PLEASE NOTE: Activities listed may be subject to change.

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**Melton City Council Vacation Care Program**

Rated Exceeding in all seven quality areas by the Department of Education and Training

**April 2015**

**Monday 30 March**
- **New Beginnings**
  - Join us for our first day of our autumn program at our beautiful new centre, the Bridge Rd Children’s and Community Centre. The indoor space is incredible and the outdoor yard will amaze you.

**Tuesday 31 March**
- **Hip Hop Hooray**
  - This morning we will have some hip hop dancing lessons. In the afternoon we’ll show off our new moves we will have a disco and maybe even some karaoke.
  - **INCLUSION COST:** $14
  - **Beginning:** 10am

**Wednesday 1 April**
- **Roller Skating**
  - Ready, set, skate. We are off for a full day of skating at our favourite roller skating rink. Bring your skates.
  - **PLACES ARE LIMITED.**
  - **SO GET IN QUICK**
  - **EXCURSION COST:** $22
  - **Departure:** 9.30am
  - **Return:** 3.30pm

**Thursday 2 April**
- **Easter Circus**
  - Roll up. Roll up. Before the long weekend let’s have some fun with an Easter circus.
  - There will be juggles, ribbon play, carnival games with an Easter twist and much, much more.

**Friday 3 April**
- **Program Closed**

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**Monday 6 April**
- **Space Exploration**
  - It’s all things space today at Bridge Rd. We will attempt to make rockets from house hold materials, design and make a space suit out of recyclable materials, and compete in a space walking competition.

**Tuesday 7 April**
- **Melbourne Zoo**
  - Everyone’s favourite place to see animals from around the world. For a bit of fun let’s see which group can list the most animals.
  - **PLACES ARE LIMITED.**
  - **SO GET IN QUICK**
  - **EXCURSION COST:** $22
  - **Departure:** 9am
  - **Return:** 3pm

**Wednesday 8 April**
- **Fresh Food Cookoff**
  - To follow on from our wonderful summer orchard fruit picking and the beautiful fruit trees in our new yard, today we cook with all fresh ingredients. The children will even get a cook book.
  - **INCLUSION COST:** $14
  - **Beginning:** 11am

**Thursday 9 April**
- **Chillax to the Max**
  - The children requested a cool relaxed day to finish off the holidays. We will visit the library and hang out in the kids zone. Then back to Bridge Rd for a movie on the big screen in the community room and chill out.
2016 KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS

Kindergarten applications for the 2016 Kindergarten year will be available from 9.00am on Wednesday 25 March.

Apply online at melton.vic.gov.au

Applications will be available at Kindergartens and all Melton City Council Customer Service venues. Applications should be lodged with Council as soon as possible to increase the likelihood of securing a place at the Kindergarten of your choice.

KINDERGARTEN READYNESS
Parent and Educator Information Session
When is the right time to enrol your child in Kindergarten? How do you know if they are really ready? Come along to this informative session presented by Early Life Foundations.

Date: Tuesday 3 March 2015
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Location: Melton Library Auditorium

KINDERGARTEN OPEN SESSIONS
Come along and explore your local Kindergarten. Meet teachers, ask questions and get information to help inform your decision on which Kindergarten to enrol your child.

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2015
Time: 4pm to 8pm
Location: For participating kindergartens visit melton.vic.gov.au or call 9747 7200

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION
Supporting Healthy and Active Kindergarten Children. This exciting session will provide parents/carers with the tools needed to support their children in their Kindergarten year including healthy and tasty lunchbox ideas, interactive activities, take home resources and more.

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2015
Time: 9.00am to 6.00pm
Location: Caroline Springs Library

For more information visit melton.vic.gov.au or contact the Kindergarten Central Enrolment Officer on 9747 7200