Dear Families,

Catholic Education Week commences on Sunday March 16th. The theme this year is *Entrust yourself to God and dare to dream*. 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 Thursday 20th March the Christian Service Team will represent the school at the Mass for Schools which will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Cathedral. During the week beginning March 17th, there will be a display of art work from students across both Primary and Secondary Catholic schools. The art work will be on display at the Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade from 9am to 3:30pm so if you are in the vicinity drop in and see some of the talent on display.

The Parents and Friends Association is an important association within the school community. This group of parents work throughout the year to raise funds to support school programs. The events they organise also provide opportunities for socialising and developing relationships with others within the school community. For new families it is a great way to get to know others and participate in school life. We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone who would like to contribute to this association. At **9am on Thursday 6th March** 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 like to be a part of. Please fill in the slip enclosed with this newsletter and return it to school. A reminder also that **Friday 7th March will be a school closure day**. On this day staff will be in professional development facilitated by staff from the Catholic Education Office. The following Monday, March 10th is a public holiday so enjoy the long weekend, school will resume as usual on Tuesday 11th March.

Many children ride either their bike or scooter to school. We encourage this as it is a great way to engage children in physical activity and also alleviates some of the strain on the limited parking available. All children who ride 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. Wednesday March 19th is **Ride2School Day** so if your child has a bike and hasn’t ridden it to school as yet, Wednesday March 19th might be a good day to start.

Have a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL
**SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY**  
Friday March 7th

**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 6th March** 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. Please fill in the slip below and return it to school.

☐ I am interested and I can attend the morning tea on Thursday 6th March.
☐ I am interested but I am unable to attend the meeting.

Name: ___________________________________ [Please Print] Tel: ____________________________

Eldest Child’s Name: ________________________________ Class: _____________________

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**Education Maintenance Allowance — 2014**

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 Centreline 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 28, 2014) and Term 3 (July 14, 2014)**.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **$200** for Prep students, and **$150** Years 1-6 and is paid in two instalments. **EMA application forms are available from the School Office**

Please provide a copy of your Concession Card

Closing date is Thursday, **February 27, 2014**

Late applications will not be accepted by the Department of Education

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**SCHOOL FEES**

Fees For 2014 will be **$1150** per family plus the Curriculum Fee of **$275** per child. The Curriculum Fee is **now overdue** so we ask that you finalise this as soon as possible. Statements detailing opening balances and yearly fees were mailed today.

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**St Catherine of Siena Parents & Friends Association**

☐ I am interested and I can attend the morning tea on Thursday 6th March.
☐ I am interested but I am unable to attend the meeting.

Name: ___________________________________ [Please Print] Tel: ____________________________

Eldest Child’s Name: ________________________________ Class: _____________________
**Parish Of Melton Office**
10 Unit Street, Melton
Tel: 9743 6515, Fax: 9747 8603
Email: stdoms@bigpond.net.au
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

**Mass Times - St Catherine of Siena**
Wednesday: 9.15am
Saturday Evenings: 6.00pm
Sunday Mornings: 9.00am & 11.00am

**Reconciliation**
Saturday: 5.30pm - 5.45pm

**Mass Times - St Dominic’s**
Tuesday Evening: 7.00pm
Thurs - Friday: 9.15am

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**NEW CANTEEN MENU**
There have been a few changes to this term’s canteen menu.
A copy is going home with the newsletter, please take some time to have a browse and take note of the changes

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**OSH CLUB NEWS**

Dear Parents,
As most of you are aware, this is my final week at OSHClub, I would like to say thank you to all the staff, students and families at St Catherines for making my time here a memorable one. I will miss you all dearly! We are having a going away party on Tuesday 25th February at 4.00pm onwards. It would be great if everyone could come and say goodbye.
I would like to introduce Jardie-Ann, our new coordinator for St Catherines OSHClub. Please come down and say hi to her.
Thanks, Prue.

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**Next Week’s Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Plastic Kite</td>
<td>Photo Frames</td>
<td>Flower Chains</td>
<td>Photo Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Pom Poms</td>
<td>Photo Frames</td>
<td>Flower Chains</td>
<td>Photo Frame</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Tennis Ball Races</td>
<td>Two Ball Basketball Knockout</td>
<td>Dancing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Information**

OSHC program phone: 0402 669 652
Coordinator: Prue Baker
Assistants: Leanne and Emily
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000
All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

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**FAMILY SUMMARY REPORTS**

Family Summary Reports were sent home to each family, please ensure your email address is up to date as our newsletter will eventually be emailed to all our families. Just a reminder that all forms are now overdue, please return them to school as soon as possible we appreciate your prompt reply of these forms.

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**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

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 28 February</th>
<th>Monday 3 March</th>
<th>Tuesday 4 March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help Needed</td>
<td>Julie Gruis</td>
<td>Donna Simpson</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Stacey Wetzler</td>
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## Term 1 Calendar 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24 FEB</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>26 Feb</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>28 Feb</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>1 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp A</em></td>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp A</em></td>
<td><em>No Preps</em></td>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp B</em></td>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp B</em></td>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp B</em></td>
<td><strong>2 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>MPSSA Swimming Carnival</em></td>
<td><em>Class Mass 2IKL @ 9:15am</em></td>
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<td><strong>25 Feb</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>27 Feb</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>29 Feb</strong></td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>1 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp A</em></td>
<td><em>Year 5/6 Camp B</em></td>
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<td><strong>3 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>4 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>5 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td><strong>8 March</strong></td>
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<td><em>Preps 5 days</em></td>
<td><em>Prep/6 Buddy Incursion</em></td>
<td><em>Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15</em></td>
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<td><strong>10 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>11 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>12 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>15 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lent 1 Prayer Service 8:55am</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Class Mass 5/6 Q.S.R.T @ 9:15am</em></td>
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<td><strong>18 March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>17 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>18 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>19 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>21 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lent 2 Prayer Service 8:55am</em></td>
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<td><em>Class Mass 3/4UV @ 9:15am</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>20 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>21 March</strong></td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>22 March</strong></td>
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<td><em>Mess at St Patrick’s for Catholic Education Week</em></td>
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<td><strong>23 March</strong></td>
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### 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

Would you like to Advertise in Veritas?
For $150 plus GST it could be yours for four issues, and of course there are larger size advertisements available.

**CONTACT:** the Parish Office on 9743 6515
or stdoms@bigpond.net.au
You would be supporting our Parish magazine and adding to your bottom line.

### 2015 kindergarten Applications

#### KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY

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 12 March 2014
**Time** 6pm to 8pm
**Location** For participating kindergartens visit melton.vic.gov.au or call 9747 7200

#### 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 ready? Come along to this informative Session presented by Dr Shona Bass.

**Date** Tuesday 18 March 2014
**Time** 6:30pm to 8:00pm
**Location** Melton Library Auditorium

#### TOILETING INDEPENDENCE

Parent and Educator Information Session

When is the right time to toilet train my child and how do I do it? Does my child have to be toilet trained to attend Kindergarten? Find out the answers to these questions and more.

**Date** Wednesday 26 March 2014
**Time** 6:30pm to 8:30pm
**Location** Caroline Springs Library
**Bookings** 9747 7200