Dear families,

Happy St Patrick's Day for yesterday!!

Following on from a meeting on 11th March between Fr Michael, Mr Brett Collision and Miss Carmel Marantelli a decision has been made to formulate a steering committee to oversee the formation of a Parish Education Board. This steering committee will consist of Fr Michael, Brett, Carmel and members from both the St Dominic's and St Catherine of Siena school communities.

Last week we had an evening with Carmel Rosman and our Year 3/4 students and their families. This evening was part of the preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. On the evening Carmel helped the children come to an understanding of the Sacramentality of these celebrations. She first explored the notion of tradition and the place sacraments have in our lives. Carmel explained Reconciliation as acknowledging an error, saying sorry, making amends to the relationship and being forgiven. When exploring the Eucharist she likened it to a special meal we might have as a family and the preparations we would make at home. It was a great night with lots of discussion between children and their families. Thank you to all of the families who attended and participated so readily.

The Victorian Government has introduced new measures to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling. These measures apply to all Victorian schools. Attendance data has shown that in Primary school some students miss, on average, 3 weeks per year; by the end of Year 6 this adds up to half a year. A new initiative titled Every day counts aims to address this issue. We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital but, if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

From 1st March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

We are in the process of phasing out our paper newsletter. From Term 2, the newsletter will only be available on our website, sent to you via our school app or emailed to you. Limited paper copies will be left at the office. A note will go out this week with details of how you can install our app on your iPad, iPhone or smart phone as well as how to request an emailed newsletter. Please return this slip to school promptly so we can ensure no-one misses out.

Have a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL
**Parish Of Melton Office**
10 Unitt 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  
Sunday—5pm

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**Easter Raffle**

Raffle tickets were sent home last week. Please return these to school by Tuesday, March 25th.

The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Tuesday, April 1st

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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 went home last week. The First Installment for School fees are now due.

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**UNIFORM NEWS**

Winter stock has now arrived at the uniform shop.

Uniform shop is open every Monday & Wednesday from 8.30am – 9.00am

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**Prep Buddy Picnic**

Just a reminder that the Prep Buddy picnic is this Wednesday, 19th March at 6:00pm. Permission slips were sent home last week, please return them to school tomorrow if you have not done so already. We ask that where possible all buddies attend this event. Thank you

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Thursday, April 3rd  
All children are to wear their full SUMMER uniform on this day. Long hair is to be tied up appropriately.

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**FAMILY SUMMARY REPORTS**

There are still a number of family summary reports that have not been returned to school.

Please return these as soon as possible as its very important that all your contact details are up to date. Also please update your email address as our weekly newsletter will soon be emailed to all our families.

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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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**
Welcome families,

We hope you all had a wonderful weekend. This week is cultural week. At OSHClub we will be participating in a range of activities reflecting cultures from all around the world.

We aim to expose and educate the children on cultures within our community. We would value any input from our families about your culture to incorporate into our week.

We wish you all a wonderful week ahead. Thank you, Jardie-Ann and Sharlene.

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**PARISH OF MELTON**

**Easter Timetable 2014**

- **Palm Sunday**
  - Saturday, April 12 & Sunday, April 13
- **Holy Thursday April 17**
  - Mass of the Lord’s Supper -7.30pm
  - Adoration - 8.30pm – 11.00pm
- **Good Friday April 18**
  - Stations of the Cross—10.30am
  - Celebration of the Lord’s passion – 3.00pm
- **Holy Saturday April 19th**
  - Blessing of the Easter Food - 10.30am

**NO EVENING MASS**

- **Easter Sunday April 20th**
  - Easter Vigil - 6.00am, 9.00am & 11.00am
  - St Dominic’s Church - 5.00pm
- **Communal Reconciliation**
  - Tuesday, April 15th -7.30pm
  - Individual Reconciliation
    - Friday, April 18 -11.30am– 12.00pm
    - Saturday, April 19th -11.00 am– 12.00pm

**Lightening Premiership**

**Monday, March 24th**

- Cricket - Blackwood Drive
- Bat-tennis - Wedge Park Primary
- Volley Ball - Melton Primary

**Leaving St Catherine’s at 9.00am & Returning 3pm**

**Catholic Education Week**

This week as part of Catholic Education Week the Leader newspaper is running a profile on Catholic schools in the area. This photo was sent to The Leader for inclusion in the profile but for some reason did not appear in the article.
Protecting your information

Older children

Personal information is any information or combination of information that enables the identification of an Individual.

Personal information is disclosed to, and used responsibly by, many legitimate online businesses to conduct business and online social interactions. However, if not managed carefully, it is possible for personal information to be accessed and misused for marketing, identity theft or for cyberbullying.

The following general guidelines are a useful starting point to teach older children to use their personal information safely and responsibly online.

At this age children’s internet use should still be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.

Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them. Explore their favourite sites and help them bookmark a list of ‘Favourites’. Check whether personal information is required to sign up any of their favourite websites or games and help your child sign up and use privacy settings safely if you feel it is appropriate.

Talk to your child about personal information and why it is special. This sort of information is information that can be used to identify or locate them and where they live, go to school or join in activities.

Set rules—make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit. Telling a trusted adult before posting any personal information online, including for competition entry is a useful rule.

Remind your child that not everybody online is who they say they are and encourage them to be cautious when sharing information.

Help your child to create screen names or IDs that do not communicate their gender, age, name or location.

Consider creating a family ‘fun’ email account that can be used for competition entries and other activities. This account will be separate to all other personal accounts so it can easily be deleted if it is misused.

More information

The Cybersmart program provides a range of cybersafety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au. Encourage your children and teens to take a look around the website. If you have young children, you may like to explore it together to help them understand how to protect themselves against online risks and make the most of their experiences online.

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Safer social networking

Older children

Social networking describes a variety of online services like Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, Twitter, online games such as World of Warcraft and Moshi Monsters and virtual worlds such as Club Penguin. Some social networking sites targeted at children claim to moderate or check communication to provide greater protection for children.

Social networking services let children and teens communicate with other people online. This can enable young people to stay in touch with friends and family and join in fun fantasy worlds and games. However, children may forget who they are communicating with online and disclose too much information. They may also behave in ways that they wouldn’t offline.

The following tips can assist in managing children’s social networking interactions

☐ If your child is using social networking services check the website age guidelines and terms and conditions. In general it is useful to consider whether you are comfortable with the content and the potential for contact with others including teens and adults. Is your child socially ready to manage contact from potentially ill meaning strangers?

☐ Help your child set up their profile to make sure that they don’t put too much personal information online. Help your child to create screen names or IDs that do not communicate their gender, age, name or location and are not sexually provocative.

☐ Set rules—make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online. Ask them to tell you before joining new websites and before they post any personal information online, including their full name, address or school.

☐ Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted adult.

☐ Establish rules around the type of contact they should report to an adult. For example, one rule may be ‘tell Mum if somebody asks you about your underwear or private parts’.

☐ Reassure your child that you will not deny them access to the internet if they report feeling uncomfortable or unsafe when online. This is a very real concern for children that may stop them from communicating with you openly.

☐ Advise your child to check with you before clicking on links sent by others on social networking websites. These may lead to adult content.

☐ Remind your child to communicate appropriately with others online, and to report any bullying of themselves or others to you or another trusted adult.

☐ Talk to your child about the use of location based services. These services enable social networking users to report their physical location to other users by ‘checking in’. Some services let people report their friends’ locations and have location based functions turned on by default. Your child can review their settings and block this function or limit who sees their location based information. Remind your child that allowing strangers to see where they are, or where their mates are, is a risky behaviour.

☐ You may also like to contact your mobile phone company for assistance with blocking internet, Bluetooth and GPS functionality on their child’s mobile phone to limit their ability to notify others of their whereabouts.

☐ Consider using filters, labels and safe zones to help manage your child’s online access

More information

The Cybersmart program provides a range of cybersafety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au.
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<td>*Lenten Prayer 8:55am Yr.2</td>
<td>*St Patrick’s Day, wear touch green &amp; donate Easter eggs.</td>
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**Parish Of Melton Office**

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.