Dear families

What a fantastic day we had last week for our Celebrating Community Day. It was great to see so many of the children dress up in their national costumes or colours and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community. The sharing of family treasures which told part of each family’s story was a special time and it was wonderful to have so many family members share this with us. In some rooms parents and grandparents joined in with the telling of the story so we thank you all for your contribution to the success of this day. A special thank you to Kaiara Braybrook, who danced an Indigenous dance for us and Mary and Andrew Tat and Mary Bathe who danced a Sudanese dance. Both of these dances evoked a sense of the rich traditions of these cultures as well as the importance of gathering and celebrating. To all of the parents who came and shared this morning, thank you all. It is sometimes difficult to make the time to attend school events and we recognise the effort this takes, thank you for your contribution to this day. Thank you also to the staff who worked so hard to organise this event. Around the school we have displayed signs which say hello and welcome in a range of languages, decorated people representing each child, as well as a range of craft and cultural books in the foyer. If you are up at school please take the time to browse these displays or share a story in the foyer.

On Thursday we also launched our Community Arts Project. We have received a grant to establish a community garden on the site. This project will involve consultation with students, families as well as community groups and artists to assist us with this. The garden will be established on the site adjacent to the two portables, between the asphalt and synthetic turf.

Last week saw many changes to the parking at the front of the school. The car park will be unavailable throughout the building of the Church and this is expected to take all of 2012 and possibly longer. The council have completed their work at the front of the school and this parking area is now a designated drive in, reverse out angle parking area. Parents are still able to drop children off in the school grounds in the mornings. I understand that finding a park is that bit more difficult and pedestrian access to the school in the mornings is limited to the gates from the park however this is so that we can ensure the safety of the students and this is our prime concern. Thank you all for your patience during these changes.

Best wishes everyone for a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL

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**Reflection**

Anzac Day
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun and in the morning;
We will remember them. Lest we forget.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY - TUESDAY, APRIL 24**
**ANZAC DAY - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**
**SCHOOL PHOTOS - FRIDAY, APRIL 27**
**ST CATHERINE OF SIENA FEAST DAY MASS - WEDNESDAY MAY 2**
COMMUNITY DAY

SCHOOL PHOTOS
FRIDAY APRIL 27
Envelopes have been sent home. Please return to School prior to Photo Day
All Children to wear their Summer Uniform on this day

GRADE PREP & GRADE 1 EXCURSIONS
TO WERRIBEE ZOO & FAIRY PARK
THURSDAY APRIL 26
Children will need to wear sports uniform and a warm jacket on this day

PEP PROGRAMME 2012
OUR PEP PROGRAMME FOR 2012 WILL COMMENCE WEDNESDAY MAY 2

EUCHARIST
2nd JUNE 1pm & 3pm
St Catherine of Siena School Hall
Reminders......
Please return ASAP - Eucharist Preference note
Reflection Day note
Eucharist Reflection Day- Friday 4th May
As you are aware a new-tiered fee structure will be introduced in 2012. However, in 2011 all families were asked to contribute to the Parish Stewardship Program. To those families who have already made the effort to establish their contribution to this program we are very grateful for your support. I would like to remind families who are yet to contribute to ensure this has been addressed as soon as possible. We aim to have everyone on the lower-tiered fee option in 2012.

As always any family who is experiencing genuine financial difficulties can discuss suitable arrangements with the Parish at any time. Of course, these payment arrangements and conversations remain confidential at all times.

Father Michael Moody
Parish Priest
On Behalf of St. Dominic's Parish Finance Committee
The Orange Pigeon
Spreading Her Wings of Hope, Care and Compassion

TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: Friday April 27
Time: 6.30 Doors Open
7.00pm Trivia Starts

Venue: Arnolds Creek Community Hall,
Claret Ash Boulevard
Melton West
$10.00 Entry
Teams of 8
LIMITED SEATS
BYO Nibbles & Drinks

For More Information Contact Jenny– 0401 076 706

TOPIC: VALUING GIRLS – (once only in 2012)
Presenter: Andrew Fuller
Ages: Primary and Secondary
Raising girls to be confident and resilient young women is a fine art given the demands placed upon them.

This seminar will cover the following:
The active ingredients of resilience
How to promote confidence in young women

- Friendship skills
- Concentration and memory skills
- Creating happy girls
- Building self-esteem and dealing with the
- anxieties that are toxic to girls
- How to communicate with girls

WHEN: Monday April 30
WHERE: St Thomas More’s– Mt Eliza (Ref.Mel. Map 103J5)