Dear families

There was great excitement in the yard last week when the fence around the landscaping was removed and for the first time in nearly twelve months, we had free access to the whole school site. The slight inconvenience of having the temporary fencing running through the site is certainly far out weighed by the fantastic new building and associated landscaped area which we now have access to. The edging of the new garden will provide seating and the garden will break up the expanse of asphalt in the yard. Thank you to everyone, particularly children and teachers for your patience during the building of this facility.

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday and this marks the beginning of Lent, a time in which we prepare for Easter. We will be celebrating Mass at 11:30 in the hall and we invite parents and families to join us for this Liturgy.

On Friday 2nd March Bishop Vincent Long will bless and officially open our new Learning and Art Facility. Also on this day we will turn the sod for the commencement of the Church building program. Parents and families are invited to join us for this special event. If you are able to attend the ceremony please return the reply slip in this newsletter by Monday 27th February.

Our fortnightly assemblies will move from afternoons to mornings from the 5th March. Parents and families are still welcome to join us. On these mornings children will line up in the yard at their usual spots, leave their bags and process into the hall with their teachers. On leaving the hall after assembly children will collect their bag from their line and move into their classrooms.

We will soon be sending our Family Summary Report so that we can ensure that the information we have for you is the most current. It is important that you check all of the information and make changes to items that are incorrect so that we can update our system. Please pay particular attention to the Parent Employment Section as funding is based on this and it must be as accurate as possible. Please refrain from using Other if at all possible.

Best wishes everyone for a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL

Tomorrow Feb 22 children will be dismissed at 12.30 for Getting to Know You Interviews

Assemblies will now be held on Monday mornings, next assembly March 5th 9am in the hall
PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

SCHOOL FEES

Fees for 2012 will be $1050 or $1850 per family plus a Curriculum and Excursion Fee of $220 per child. The Curriculum and Excursion 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.

CDF STUDENT BANKING

Thursday is 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 Student Banking Account.

Application forms are available from the Office.

Getting to Know You Interviews

These interviews provide an important opportunity for parents to share insights into their child’s strengths and challenges with their teachers and as such are a vital link in our overall Assessment and Reporting strategy. I encourage all parents to attend these interviews. Interviews will be held this Wednesday and Thursday in the hall. School will finish at 12:30 on Wednesday so interviews can commence at 1:30pm. Interview times have been sent home, please see your child’s teacher if you are unsure of your interview time. Any changes must go through the office and not classroom teachers.

Education Tax Refund

Each year families who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A are able to claim 50% of the amounts paid on eligible education expenses. From July 1 2011 school approved uniform items have been added to the list of eligible items. You will need to keep all receipts for school uniform items. Further information regarding this can be found at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY
22nd Ash Wednesday Mass 11:30am
22nd Preps not at school
25th/26th First Sunday Lent
29th Preps not at school

MARCH
2nd Blessing/Opening New Building
3rd/4th Second Sunday Lent
10th/11th Presentation of Penance & Eucharist Candidates
12th Labor Day Holiday

Book Boxes are now available to purchase at the uniform shop for $5.00 each.
Education Maintenance Allowance — 2012

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 (1 February, 2012) and Term 3 (16 July, 2012).

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 for primary students and $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

**EMA application forms are available from the School Office. Please provide a copy of your Concession Card**

Closing date is Monday 27 February 2012

Late applications will not be accepted by the Department of Education

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**Sausage Sizzle.....** A reminder that a Sausage Sizzle will be held this Thursday February 23 at lunch time. Sausages are $1, Pop Tops $1. Children will need to pay on the day. Gluten Free and Vegetarian sausages are available if ordered prior to the day.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO......**

The Duroy Family on the safe arrival of their baby boy Issac.

The Sant family on the safe Arrival of their twin girls Marisa and Loretta

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**CANTEEN VOLUNTEER SLIP**

I can assist in the Canteen on the following days: (Please tick)

**MONDAY [ ] TUESDAY [ ] FRIDAY [ ]**

Name: _________________________ Telephone No: _________________

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**Blessing and Opening of New Learning and Art Facility**

☐ I will be attending the Blessing and Opening on March 2nd at 11:00am.

☐ I will be attending the Light Refreshments after the ceremony.

Name: ____________________________________________

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St Dominic's Parish Ball
Any young lady wishing to be presented at the St Dominic's Parish Ball on Friday the 29th June. Please contact Sue Mc Guinness 9743 2941 or Robyn Laffin 9743 3174.
The Ball will be at Luxor and we will also practise there on the 9 Thursdays before the Ball, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Costs are $270.00 per Debutante and $270.00 per partner. Tickets for guests is $80.00 per adult and children 12 years and under are $55.00

Diggers Rest Junior Football Club News
Pre-Season Training Has Started!
Diggers Rest Oval, Plumpton Rd, Diggers Rest
Wednesdays 4.30pm – 6pm for all age groups (u10, u12, u14, & u16)
Registration Day; Friday, February 24th
GIRLS/BOYS OF ALL AGES & ABILITIES accepted.
2012 Season Prices; Early Bird Special until 24th Feb.
1 child $70, 2 children $110, 3+ $150
Normal Prices =1 child $115, 2 children $155, 3+ $195
Phone Merran on 0438 731 360 for more information

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
The Mary MacKillop Museum, 362 Albert St East Melbourne, will be open Saturday March 24th between 10am–4pm, to enable visitors to view the special exhibition on loan from Sydney titled; “Mary MacKillop and the Irish sisters” - the story of Mary’s travels in Ireland and her return journey to Australia. Entry by donation and light refreshments available.
For more information telephone: 9926 9300 or visit: www.mmhc.org.au

February—March 2012 Calendar

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