Dear families

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. I trust that you all had a lovely holiday and a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. This year our school mantra is “Be all that you can be and you will set the world on fire”. Many of you will recognise this as one of St Catherine of Siena’s quotes. She wrote this in a letter to a young man as an inspiration that he not give in and work towards his goals. As we begin this new year let us all continue to support each and every member of the school community and that each and every one of us use our skills and talents to the best of our ability.

A very warm welcome to our new Prep students who started school last Thursday. They have settled into school quickly and are beginning to learn the routines of school. Congratulations to all of the parents who prepared their children so well for this big step. Welcome also to 10 other students and their families, across Years 1 - 6 who began school on Monday. I am sure that you will settle in quickly and that the students in your class will make you feel very welcome.

Last week our Years 1 – 6 students met with their teacher for a pre-assessment interview. This interview enables teachers to determine the specific strengths and areas of need for each child and plan appropriate classroom activities to meet these needs. Thank you to all parents who ensured their child was on time for these interviews. Prep students will undergo similar testing over the coming weeks. Parents of Prep students will have received a letter with the time of your interview. If you did not receive this please contact the Office regarding your interview time.

This year we also have several new staff joining our school community. Welcome to Ms Natalie Bruzzese, Ms Laura Cannatelli, Ms Kiara Finocchiaro, Mrs Assunta Iacovino and Ms Robyn Murray, and welcome back to Ms Gemma Murphy. We hope that your time at St Catherine of Siena School will be a rewarding one.

This Friday we begin our school year with our opening of the school year Mass which will be celebrated at 9:15am in the school hall. Parents families and friends are invited to come and celebrate this occasion with us. Morning tea after mass will be held in the Foyer. I hope to see you there.

A letter will be going out this week with times for Parent Teacher chats. These meetings are an important component of our overall Reporting strategy and provide parents with an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher and pass on information about their child that will assist them in settling into the new year and give staff an insight into your child’s strengths, likes and challenges. I ask all parents to complete these forms and send them back promptly so that an appropriate time can be allocated to you.

Have a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL FEES

Fees For 2012 will be $1050 or $1850 per family plus 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.
Welcome To Our New Students for 2012

Prep
Dudi Adoor
Jacquilen Anear
Richard Atkins
Jai Belcher
Cameron Binek
Jack Bowen-Moller
Lincoln Braszell
Ryan Breich
Jordyn Briggs
Natasha Carneiro
Nynaluit Chol
Panom Chol
Chelsea Claveria
Jesse Crisp
Abraham Dalumpines
Rose D’Arienzo
Giselle De Bono
Taiia Devlin
Ryan Dreaver
Olivia Eagle
Jessica Ferris
Jacob Galakos
Tahlia Gigliotti
Brianna Gill
Jack Goudie
Elesha Gruis
Lee Hickling
Abbey Higgins
Mason Hobbs
Jasmine Hodge
Joel Horton
Abby Janetzi
Lucas Jensen
Victoria Kaczor
Emma King
Isabella Kitchner
Jokudu Lalia
Orlando Lopez
Nathan Magri
Jayden Maher
Wel Majok
Dabora Manyok-Thiak
Jacob Masters
Ayoum Mayan
Kethmi Meemaduma
Jamie Millington
Adam Mizzi
Abouk Nagur
Leonardo Pirro
Deacon Ramsey
Jett Rust
Charlize Santa Maria
Josh Singh
Cooper Stephens
Caleb Straka
Tahlia Swan
Benjamin Tongpao
Alex Turner
Amelia Vannuccini
Jason Vassallo
Emilio Velasquez
Cooper Ward-Devlin
Mitchell Weaver
Isla Webber
Caitlyn Whitehand
Madeline Wroblewski

Year One
Miah Presta, Madison Vella

Year Two
Kassandra Galea, Kyan Claveria, Benjamin Cuccia

Year Three
Ruby O’Brien, Jackson Vella

Year Four
Tayah Drew, Billie O’Brien

Year Six
Ryan Brewer
Some reminders as we start the year:

School Uniform
All children are required to wear their summer uniform this term. The uniform shop will be open Monday - Thursday this week from 8:30 - 9:30. After this regular hours will be on Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 - 9:00. The uniform shop is located in the left hand portable on the edge of the asphalt area. All children are expected to be in full / correct school uniform at all times. Presentation in the correct uniform, with clean shoes and tidy hair expresses pride in our school and upholds the standard of our school. A note is required if a child is out of school uniform. If hair is being tied up it needs to be a yellow or a blue ribbon or dark coloured hair-tie.

Hats
All children are required to wear a hat whilst outside during recess, sport or other activity. Students without a hat will be required to stay inside at the first aid area. Hats can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Canteen
Once again the school canteen will run on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you are able to assist in the canteen on any of the days please complete the form at the back of the newsletter.

Punctuality
All students are required to be at school prior to the first bell. Being at school before the bell is important as it enables your child to develop social relationships with others and ensures they are at school for the commencement of the school day and learning activities.

Attendance
If your child is unwell it is important that they stay at home to recover and are not sent to school where others may then become sick as well. If your child is sick, it is a legal requirement that a note is given to their teacher, once they return to school, stating the reason for the absence.

School Visitors
When visiting the school all parents must enter through the office and sign the visitors register. This register is used in an emergency to determine who is in the school so it is vital that you do not enter the school through any other doors.

Before School
Supervision of the yard before school does not commence until 8:30 am. It is important that children are not dropped off and left at school prior to this as they will be unsupervised in the yard. The adventure playground is out of bounds to all students both before and after school.

After School Supervision
There are two teachers on duty after school. Children are to wait for parents on the asphalt area. Children are not to wait in the Office between 3.15 and 3.30 pm as this area is very congested for parents who may have a concern or query that they want an answer to by Lisa or Tina. Any child that has not been collected by 3.30 pm will be required to wait in the Office.

Children who attend After School Care Programs offsite wait at the yellow seats for their bus to arrive.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
As you are aware a new-tiered fee structure will be introduced in 2012. However, in 2011 all families were asked 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 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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PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The PFA is an important association, not only because of the funds they raise 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 16th February 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. To show your interest please fill in the slip below and return to school.

St Catherine’s Parents & Friends Association

☐ I am interested and I can attend the morning tea on Thursday 16th February.

☐ I am interested but I am unable to attend the meeting.

Name: ____________________________ [Please Print]  Tel: ______________________

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CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Once again, the Canteen is asking for Volunteers to help out in the Canteen during the year.

As the school becomes larger in size, so too does the need for extra volunteers. Where one person’s help was enough, we now need two. Also, for any new families wanting to help out, it’s a great way to meet other parents, as well as assisting the school. If you are able to assist on either a Monday, Tuesday or Friday, your help would be greatly appreciated. Rosters are being prepared shortly, so if you are able to assist, please return this slip by this coming Friday. Thank you.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER SLIP

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

MONDAY [ ]  TUESDAY [ ]  FRIDAY [ ]

Name: ____________________________  Telephone No: ______________________
Scholastic Book Club

Dear Parent / Guardian

Welcome back to another school year – a year that we hope will be full of exciting challenges, successful learning, lasting friendships and, the key to so many activities – reading!

Scholastic Book Club offers a convenient way for your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books. The books have been expertly selected to span a range of reading levels and interests and are offered at very reasonable prices, considerably lower than elsewhere. The wide range of newly published titles and old favourites represents a thoughtful mix of books from Australian and international publishers.

Scholastic Book Club operate at least eight times a year. The current issue of Book Club went home yesterday. Simply select any books your child would like and return the order form to school, with correct payment, by the closing date. All orders need to be clearly labelled and placed in sealed envelopes or snap lock bags.

The school sends all the orders in together, and then the books are delivered to the school. The books will then be delivered to your child to take home. If you would rather collect the books from school yourself, a note with the order is all that is needed.

Furthermore, the school also receives free books and/or teaching resources from Scholastic Book Club that allow us to regularly update our class and school libraries with just-published and favourite books.

The due date for the current Book Club issue is Friday the 17th of February. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Book Club please contact myself through the School Office.

Thank You

Theresa Maskell
Book Club Co-ordinator

Swimming Trials

Trials will be held for our school swimming Team on February 15, 7am at Melton Waves.
A permission slip will be sent home shortly to those students interested.
Please see Mr Sage if you are interested in trying out.

Specialist Timetable

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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Performing Arts</th>
<th>Art</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Prep B 2S 1H 1E 5/6P 5/6M Prep D 1E 5/6N 1F 5/6P 2Q</td>
<td>Prep B 3U 1F 5/6M 1H 5/6N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2R 5/6J 2Q 3V 5/6L 2S 5/6L 2R 4K 2Q 5/6J 4I 2R</td>
<td>2S 5/6J 4I 2R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5/6N 4I 3U 2/3T 4K 5/6J 4K 3V 3U 5/6M 5/6P 5/6L 2/3T 3V 4I</td>
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February 2012 Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
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| Preps till 9.00 - 1.20  
Years 1-6 start | Preps till 9.00 - 1.20 | Preps not at school | Preps till 9.00 - 1.20 | Opening of Year Mass 9.15  
Preps 9.00 - 1.20 |  |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| Preps full days  
9.00 – 3.15 this week  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 | Preps not at school  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 | Preps not at school  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 | Parents' and Friends  
meeting 9.00am |  |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| Preps full days  
9.00 – 3.15 this week  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 |  | Ash Wednesday  
Preps not at school  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 | Parents and Friends  
meeting 9.00am |  |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 1   | 2   |     |     |
| Preps full days  
9.00 – 3.15 this week  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 |  | Preps not at school  
Uniform Shop 8.30 - 9.00 |  |  |

COMMUNITY NEWS

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; Feb. 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
Prices after 24th Feb. 1child $115, 2 children $155, 3+ $195
Phone Merran 0438731360

St Dominic’s Church
10 Unitt Street, Melton
Tel: 9743 6515, Fax: 9747 8603
Email: stdoms@bigpond.net.au
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday  
Between : 10.00am - 4.00pm

Mass Times
Saturday Evenings: 6.00pm
Sunday Mornings: 9.00am & 11.00am

Weekday Liturgies
Tuesday Evening: 7.00pm
Wednesday to Friday: 9.15am

Recruiting New Staff
OSHClub are looking for new recruits to join their team. If you are interested and would like more information please call:
Australia wide : 1800 460 870
Victoria: 8564 9000
or email your resume to: jobs@oshclub.com.au