Dear families,

I hope you have all had a lovely long weekend and managed to enjoy the extra break. This year the theme for Catholic Education Week is ‘Throw Open the Doors – Let in the Light.’ This recalls the Second Vatican Council’s invitation to renewal from fifty years ago. Let us hear the invitation again and be ready to throw open the doors and renew our hope and our vision for the future. Let us be willing to let in the light of Christ that he may transform our work and our lives. As part of the celebrations for Catholic Education Week the school captains and liturgy team members will represent the school at Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Thursday 15th March.

In the last two weeks of this term our Year 3/4 students will receive the Sacrament of Penance. These ceremonies will take place on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of week 8 and 9. Reconciliation is an opportunity for us, within the communion of the Sacraments, to be open, honest and humble with God about our own choices and failings. As one of the seven sacraments, it is a new moment of grace and a time of awareness about our personal and social sin, calling us to remember our Baptismal commitment, our life confirmed in the Spirit, our unity with the Eucharistic people. In this Sacrament we receive God’s unconditional forgiveness and the challenge to move forward and try to learn from our shortcomings. As these children and their families prepare for this very special time, I ask you to keep all of them in your prayers.

This last week has seen many of our children competing in a variety of competitions. Childhood is all about testing yourself and finding out your strengths, challenges and above all enjoying the experience. Congratulations to all of the students who attended the Gateways Science Program at Mowbray last week. The enthusiasm with which they speak about science and the passion they show in this area is a delight to see. Thank you to Mrs Kean-Ong for organising this experience for the children.

Congratulations also to all of the students who attended the swimming competition last week. You all had a great day and came back with huge smiles on your faces. Well done not only on your successes in your events but also on the way in which you competed. Best wishes to those of you going on to further competitions this week. Thank you also to Mr Sage and Mrs Latter for being with the children and supporting them on this day. Last week at assembly Harry Coombs told us of his third place in the Victorian titles for Karate and showed with pride his medal. Well done Harry, this is a huge achievement.

Over the holidays the council will be working on upgrading the parking at the font of the school. They will put in a designated entry and exit with marked parking bays. This work is due to be completed by the start of term 2. A reminder to everyone that when leaving the site on foot you should use the gate into the park or the pedestrian gate near the crossing as these are the only safe pedestrian points. The other gates are for car traffic and should not be used.

Best wishes everyone for a great week.

Carmel Marantelli
St Dominic’s Church
10 Unit Street, Melton
Tel: 9743 6515, Fax: 9747 8603
Email: stdoms@bigpond.net.au

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

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

Weekday Liturgies
Tuesday Evening: 7.00pm at St Dominic’s
Wednesday: 9.15am at St Catherine of Siena
Thursday & Friday: 9:15 at St Dominic’s

Upcoming Events

**MARCH**
13th Indigenous Focus Group 2:30pm
15th Catholic Education Week Mass for schools
17th -18th Fourth Sunday of Lent
30th Last Day of Term

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 have been mailed out this week.

Term 1 fee of $250 is now due we have a number of ways in which you can pay, Eftpos, cash, cheque, direct debit ,Bpay or centre pay

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ**

2012 SCHOOL FEES
All Families will be billed at the higher rate of $1850.00 in Term One. In Term Two the Parish will issue the school with a list of all families who have paid their contribution to St Dominic’s Stewardship Program and therefore those who have paid will then be given their parish exemption of $800.00 off the family School Fee for 2012 ( the lower fee will be $1050.00)

BOOK CLUB
All Book Club orders must be returned by Friday, March 16.
Late orders cannot be accepted.

Hot Cross Bun Drive
Order forms for the hot Cross Bun Drive are due back tomorrow Wednesday 14 March

Easter Raffle
Easter raffle tickets are due back on Monday March 19 along with an Easter egg donation for our Easter raffle

Uniforms For Sale
1x SZ L- full brim hat
1xSZ6 - Polo
1xSZ 8 - Jumper
6x SZ 6 - shorts
All excellent condition
All $100
Contact Elizabeth 0415 052 380

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 this service. The service is FREE for children who are eligible for concession, or a co-payment fee of $29 is payable for those who are not eligible.
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
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**March 2012 Calendar**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Do you like to...

Sing?

Dance?

Perform?

If yes, CAUSTHENICS is for you!

Contact us for further information:

Lesley - 9743 0434

www.meltoncalisthenics.org.au

meltoncalisthenicsclubinc@gmail.com

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

We all do things to enhance our lives; Fitness programs and diets to improve our health; Professional Development programs to improve our job skills. We offer you an opportunity for married couples to give a wonderful gift to your children by enhancing your marriage through a Marriage Encounter weekend. Good marriages need some attention occasionally. Please join us in 2012. Take a look at our website on www.wwme.org.au

Our weekends in 2012 are: 20-22 April, 15-17 June, 10-12 August and 12-14 October.

For further information and bookings contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03)9733 0997 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

**Karate**

"Come and try Karate here in West Melton. 2 free sessions, beginners very welcome. Learn self defence, increase your personal confidence and have fun all at the same time! Free uniform on joining. Specialised kids classes Tuesdays 4pm. Call Amelia on 0407320333 or visit www.artofdefence.com.au"

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Come and See the good work we do

When: Tuesday March 27 at 7.30pm at St Dominic’s Worship Centre, Church Street Melton