Principal’s Letter

Dear parents, friends and Father Simon,

Our NAPLAN results certainly caused a positive conversation or two last week. I am most grateful to the staff who work tirelessly for the benefit of our students. Our school board will be given a full run down of our results next week. Please don’t hesitate to ask for more information.

The ‘Big Dreams’ Market will continue to run on a monthly basis in our grounds for the remainder of the year. Our P&F are looking at ways that we can work further with the organisers. If you have any ideas please don’t hesitate to let Jo Gaynor or myself know.

Our staff are about to undertake further training in anaphylaxis. Please make sure that you have informed the office and class room teachers if your child either has allergic or anaphylactic reactions to any products.

Rosemary Hogan a long term staff member of our school has been away on extended leave for approximately fifteen months. She is still unwell and not likely to return to our school any time soon. Can I ask that you keep her in your thoughts and your prayers.

The first session of our ‘Parent Helper’ course ran last Monday night. Judy Smith and Mon Rayner are working with parents who want to know more about their child’s learning and how they can assist both at school and at home. The next session is on Monday 16 March at 7pm. Please feel free to join in.

The parent session of ‘felting’ was an absolute success. We had ten parents attend as well as several staff members. Thank you for attending and I am now looking forward to the completed mural.

Have a great week

Duncan Arendse
Principal

12th March Thursday of the 3rd Week of Lent

‘Jesus, great healer, help me rely on the power God gives me to seek what is good for others – which means standing by you. Please give me the courage to do this.’

Our Sacred Journey, Lent 2015

Board / P&F Profile
Helen Comerford
General Board Member
Parent of: Isabelle (Gr 4) and Ryan (Gr 5)
Likes: A good laugh, vanilla lattes and movie night with my kids
Years at St Thomas More: This is my fifth year.
Reason for joining: To help support and develop our school community.

Parent Felting Session with our Artist in Residence

St Thomas More’s Vision Statement
‘Our faith in Jesus Christ nurtures and empowers us to become a just and learning community’.
School Board NOMINATIONS.

We are very grateful to the following three parents, who have nominated themselves to become a member of our School Board. We kindly ask that families assist the nomination process by considering each nominee, and complete the slip attached in this newsletter with your preferences by next Friday 20th March.

Or simply email your preferences to principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

NOMINATIONS AND REASON FOR NOMINATION

Ben Martin:-
I nominate myself, as I am keenly interested in the school and moreover, education, philosophy and spirituality which would feed well into discussions and alternate viewpoints.

Brad Smith:-
As a new parent to the school community, I’d like to share this perspective with others, and engage as part of the board to maintain the excellent standard of care and education that St Thomas More School provides to our children and their families.

In regards to the skills I can offer, I can share my experience and knowledge in information technology in business, working with and leading large and small groups, and listening and engaging with a broad spectrum of people in my daily life.

Tracy Harrison:-
I hope to contribute to high learning standards for our children, and act as a voice between the parent community and the Board.

Previously, I was a member of the P&F Committee for 6 years, including 2 as the President. I thoroughly enjoyed the involvement with the school and its community that this afforded me.

I hope by becoming a Board Member that I can have an input into the future success of St Thomas More.

Working Bee - THIS SUNDAY 15th March from 10am

Working Bee WISH LIST items as follows:

Flouro light check, unblock all external u-bend sinks, guttering, drains, whipper snipping, replacement of ramp boards outside Art Room, deck staining, creepers and bushes cut back along the front fence!

If families could bring, gardening gloves, gardening tools, whipper snipper & chainsaw.

Let’s pray for sunshine — enthusiasm — and good team spirit!

As always, thank you in advance for your dedication to our School, we look forward to seeing you THIS SUNDAY!

(please complete the attached attendance slip for catering purposes)

Any questions, please email Duncan Arendse on principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
CLASSROOM HELPERS

COURSE—2nd NIGHT

Monday 16th March,
7-9pm In the staffroom
- Drinks and nibbles provided -

Recently we met for our first Classroom Helpers Session where we learned about learning and how to help at school and home.

If you missed the first session, but would still like to help in the Prep—Yr 2 Literacy Sessions, or want to get some tips on how to help at home, please join us for this last session.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Judy Smith/Literacy Leader
judys@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Monica Rayner/Maths Leader
monica@smbelgrave.catholic.eu.au

Wishing all STM Families a restful Easter Break
SMOW—What’s that??
If you have visited the staffroom lately, you may have noticed our Staff Member Of the Week (SMOW) notice board. Each week a different staff member is rostered on and other staff members write a short note about what they appreciate, like or adore about the SMOW. We have such an amazing group of hard-working, dedicated staff at STM and this is an opportunity to express some of the positive things we recognise in each other. There may have even been a sneaky note or two from parents placed on the board! The more the merrier, we say.

Here’s some snippets from the notice board for the past two SMOWs:

**SMOW...Amy Manion**
(Grade 6 teacher and past student of STM)

- So compassionate, so gentle, balanced, giving, open, well organised & fun-loving. Thanks for your smiling face.
- You are like a breath of fresh air! Always happy and smiling.
- You radiate happiness and positivity. I love your smile and joy for life. Your grade is very fortunate to have you as their teacher!
- A beautiful person inside and out!!! You bring an energy and enthusiasm with you every day. YOU ROCK!

**SMOW...Kelly Schmidt**
(Learning Support Officer, past parent of STM & mad St Kilda fan)

- If you looked up dedication in the dictionary the meaning would be: Kelly! Truly dedicated! Xx
- I love that you are always so ready and willing to help. Too bad you barrack for St Kilda!!
- You are a fabulous person, an asset to any classroom and have a wicked sense of humour.
- You give above and beyond to our school, as well as the parish. I like that we can stir each other and have a good laugh.
- I love the way you are always so calm and cool! I also love that you smile so easily.
STM ATHLETICS/CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL THURSDAY 26TH

TIME TABLE ON THE DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th>Group 3</th>
<th>Group 4</th>
<th>Group 5</th>
<th>Group 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Assemble on the grass Athletics Track</td>
<td>12/13yr</td>
<td>12/13yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>Cross Country Races - Boys and Girls combined (in age group)</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Assemble on the grass Athletics Track</td>
<td>12/13yr</td>
<td>12/13yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Cross Country Races - Boys and Girls combined (in age group)</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>11yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td>9/10yr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>1 Long Jump</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40</td>
<td>2 Shot Put</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>3 Discus</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40</td>
<td>4 HURDLES</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10</td>
<td>5 100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Depart Kings Park for School</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARENT HELP NEEDED at Cross Country Athletics
Thursday 26th March to be held at Kings Park, UFTG
Please email Claire Williams if you can assist on the day
cwilliams@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Victorian Primary School
NURSING PROGRAM

A Primary School Nursing Program
Information Package & School Entrant Health Questionnaire
was sent home to Prep families—NOW OVERDUE—PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY.

Keera Waterston a visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Training will be attending the school to conduct the Prep grade health assessments and to see other children as requested by parents or teachers (with parents’ consent).

The purpose of the visit is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment; to link children, families and school communities to services available in the community; and to provide information and advice that promotes health and wellbeing.

Parents are invited to contact the visiting primary school nurse if there are any issues they wish to discuss. The contact number for the visiting primary school nurse is 0455 099 461.

Parents of students (other than Prep students) that wish their child to be seen by the school nurse need to complete a Referral form that is available at the school office. The completed Referral form needs to be returned to the school office.
P & F Fundraiser

- VISION PORTRAITS -

For only $15 families can get
a Photo Sitting
AND a framed photograph
of your choice to keep!

Any other photos people wish to
order are affordable!
The most expensive pack is $250.00
(please read below for more information)

Deadline is TOMORROW

EWSPORTRAITS

$15 Photo Fundraiser
10" x 13" photo with frame
- Don’t miss this great opportunity to update
your family photos.
- Choose your time, book, & pay online
- Cash bookings also welcome, simply fill in
a cash voucher & return it with the cash!
- 100% of the booking fee goes to the school
- Share the link with friends and family,
everyone’s welcome!

info@visionportraits.com.au visionportraits.com.au

St Thomas More’s School
Photo Fundraising Event
Please support us by booking your photo fundraising session.
ONLY $15 for one 10” x 13” photo and frame.

Event held on: Saturday the 21st of March
Book & Pay Online at:
www.trybooking.com/HQQP

Bookings close: Friday 13th of March
Enter the link above (exactly as it appears here) into your web browser’s address bar. Entering this info google or a search engine will not work.
Please read the fundraising page for more information and our terms & conditions.
Questions? Contact Vision Portraits (03) 9696 9400

VISION PORTRAITS

P & F EMAIL ADDRESS
The P&F now have an email address. If
you would like to contact them to ask
questions or offer assistance please feel
free to use:
p&f@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

EASTER HAMPER
DONATIONS . . .
are still being collected and are most
gratefully received.
Thank you to the families who have
generously donated already!!!
Keep on eye out for
Raffle Tickets
coming home soon!!

P&F EMAIL ADDRESS
The P&F now have an email address. If
you would like to contact them to ask
questions or offer assistance please feel
free to use:
p&f@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Working bee
THIS SUNDAY
15th March at 10 am.

Interested in New
School App?
We are investigating a school app called
'School Stream.'
All parents are invited to attend a working
information session about it

THIS AFTERNOON
12th March 2015 at
2:30pm in the staff room.
FAMILY TIP SHEET
Common Sense on Respecting Creative work

DIGITAL LITERACY AND CITIZENSHIP IN A CONNECTED CULTURE © 2012 www.commonsense.org

What’s the Issue?
Our kids are used to having all types of creative work available at their fingertips. People’s writing, artwork, videos, and images can be inspiring. But we often forget about copyright law, which protects people’s creative work. Even though kids may feel they have the right to use anything they find online, the Internet is not a free-for-all. Kids are responsible for following copyright law and respecting creative work online. There are exceptions such as fair use, which allows kids to use a small amount of copyrighted material without permission in certain situations, such as for schoolwork.

Why Does It Matter?
Younger children may not realize that copying and pasting material they find online is plagiarism. They may not understand that the illegal downloading and sharing of music and movies is piracy, which is like stealing. Kids need to be educated about how they can use work they find online, and how to properly cite the work they use.

It’s important to teach kids about the hard work that goes into creating something like a book, movie, song, video game, or website. They should also think about how they would want to protect their own creative work.

Common sense says:
Help your kid make a habit of using the following process to be a responsible and respectful user and creator.

1. ASK. Who is the author? How does the author say I can use the work? Do I have to get the creator’s permission first? Identifying the author or artist of a work will help kids remember that behind every work is a person who made it. Help your child look more closely to see how the author says their work can be shared.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE. Did I give credit to the work I used? Teach kids early that they can show respect by giving credit. Just as they would want to receive credit for things they make – like artwork, pieces of writing, or photographs – they should give credit to people’s work they draw from. See if your child’s teacher has a policy about giving credit or citations, and encourage your child to use it.

3. ADD VALUE. Did I rework the material to make new meaning and add something original? Help kids share their independent voice by encouraging them not to just copy and paste information from others, but to use it in a way that helps them say what they want to say – in their own words.
As you would be aware a local family from The Patch tragically lost their 2 year old son Eli on Saturday February 28th when a tree fell through the family home.

This event is for us all to pull together, spend a night at the movies and raise as much money as we can to help this family out.
2015 WINTER REGISTRATION

*Registrations Open....9th March 2015!

To avoid disappointment, register now & secure a place in a Winter 2015 team.
Registrations for the 2015 Winter Season close 23rd March 2015.

Why join Belgrave South Red Devils?

- Fitness, Fun, Team work, Make friends, Build Confidence, Develop Co-ordination
- Family orientated club with age groups ranging from Under 8’s to Under 23’s
- FREE NEW REGISTRATION for Under 8’s & Under 10’s. Conditions Apply
- Director of Coaching past WNBL player
- Incorporated with Knox Junior Domestic competition

Visit our website www.reddevils.org.au & click on the "on-line registrations" link to register

Any enquiries can be directed to our registrar Meldinda at amriddell@bigpond.com. Alternatively you can find out more by visiting our website!

Belgrave South Red Devils
www.reddevils.org.au BSithBD@gmail.com

*Note: to align ourselves with Knox Basketball Inc. “On-line Registration” is now compulsory at ERFD Basketball Club

Come and celebrate 50 years of St Josephs at our Community Day

Sunday 22 March 10am – 2pm

- Free food and drink
- School tours andrides
- School band

Free rides including U3G, Old DM, Humanist, Atomic Drop Slides

Free activities including fancy challenge, game made, inflatable castles, gladiator challenge

Celebrating 50 years of transforming boys into exceptional young men
Come and experience the St Josephs difference
Creative Writing Workshops for kids who love to write
at Burrinja Arts Centre, Upwey

UNIT ONE – SWITCH ON your imagination! $100
Wednesdays April 29 to JUNE 7 (8 weeks)
4.15- 5.15pm Ages: 8-11
Get started Develop characters and dialogue Plan and end a story Edit and improve

UNIT TWO - WRITE FANTASTIC $90 Writing Fantasy, science fiction and horror.
Wednesdays July 29 to September 9 (7 weeks)
Create imaginary beasts invent fantastic worlds describe terrifying adventures
4.15- 5.15pm Ages: 8-11

Enquiries: 0417127012 Book at www.burrinja.org.au or by calling Burrinja 97548723
The group is facilitated by Pauline Hosking, a local playwright and author with many years experience teaching English and Drama in secondary schools. She has tutored in the Gateway programs for gifted children and been an Artist in Residence at Lilydale Primary School, Emerald Primary School and Gembrook Primary School. Pauline has also lectured in Editing for the Diploma of Arts (Professional Writing and Editing) at Chisholm Institute of TAFE.

Working Bee ATTENDANCE SLIP—Sunday 15th March 2015 from 10am

Families—we ask that you kindly respond by TOMORROW 13th March for catering purposes. Thank you in advance.

The family will be attending the working bee this Sunday.

Number Adults__________ Number of Children__________

Or simply email Duncan on principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

School Board NOMINATIONS - PLEASE RETURN BY 20th MARCH 2015

Below are three parent nominees for the St Thomas More School Board vacancy. Based on the information provided by each nominee, on page two in this newsletter, we kindly request families indicate their order of preference eg: 1, 2 and 3 (1 being their first preference).

Tracy Harrison
Brad Smith
Ben Martin