Exciting News . . .

Dear Families,

You may have seen in the media today that St Thomas More’s has been recognised as one of the 59 primary and secondary Victorian Schools to have made high gains in our NAPLAN results. [link]

Whilst Reading at Years 3 & 5 was the main standout, we are pleased to have had good improvement across most areas.

Although NAPLAN is just one of the sources of information we use, we believe these results reinforce that the strategies we have put in place in through the School Improvement Plan are paying off. The work we have done with a Literacy Coach, learning and teaching deeper comprehension and thinking skills, being involved in the CTLM (Maths) Project, team planning and targeted teaching have all contributed to the positive results.

Our efforts in striving for continuous improvement are ongoing, and we know we still have areas we need to improve in, however this news is certainly cause for celebration. A particular thank you to our hard-working teachers, whose dedication to the all-round education of your children is immeasurable.

Judy Smith
(on behalf of the School Leadership Team)

5 March Thursday of the 2nd week of Lent

Pope Francis in Vatican City
‘Allow yourselves to be surprised by God. Don’t be frightened of surprises. They shake the ground from under our feet, and they make us unsure. But they move us forward in the right direction.’

Pope Francis

~ 2015 ~

Confirmation Program

This year’s Confirmation Program begins with a parent and child information session on Tuesday 10th March at St Thomas More’s Church, from 7pm—8pm.

If you intend for your child to take part in the program and have not yet registered with the Parish, please contact Andrew Milne on 9754 2141.

Board / P&F Profile

Jo Gaynor — P&F President

Parent of: Charlotte Gaynor (1/2 JB)
Likes: Fantasy novels, trying to create a garden (totes amateur), positive action, chocolate and wine (normally together)

Years at St Thomas More: 2nd year
Reason for joining: I want to do as much as I can to make sure my kids have a happy and educational school life. I have fond memories of my Mum and Dad being involved at my school and loved that they made a difference (it wasn't that great when I was naughty though)
CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE—2nd NIGHT

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

Last week 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.edu.au

Wishing all STM Families a restful Easter Break
STM ATHLETICS/CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL THURSDAY 26TH

TIMETABLE ON THE DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Assemble on the grass Athletics Track - first bus * All 3&amp;4’s</td>
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<td>Cross Country Races -Boys and Girls combined (in age group) 11 years, 12/13 year olds</td>
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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

URGENT!

A Primary School Nursing Program
Information Package & School Entrant Health Questionnaire is being sent home to Prep families TODAY and is to be returned NO LATER THAN NEXT TUESDAY 10TH MARCH

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.

EXTEND
AFTER SCHOOL CARE
at St Thomas More Primary School

Our weekly recap
Hi everyone, hope you are all doing well and are looking forward to the long weekend! Last week at Extend we had lots of fun playing in the beautiful sunshine and making some awesome crafts for our friends and family! We loved taking silly photos and videos of ourselves to put all over our photo wall in the room! We loved making yummy salad wraps, which were healthy and delicious! We are loving meeting some new preps this year, everyone is welcome to pop in and say hi! Have a great weekend!

Josh

Next week’s activities:
SPORT WEEK!
Monday 9 March:
PUPIL FREE DAY
– NO OSHC
Tuesday 10 March:
Playdough Making
Wednesday 11 March:
Pictionary with Playdough
Thursday 12 March:
Finger Painting and Soccer
Friday 13 March:
Nutrition Smoothies

AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAM COMING SOON
Our team have been working hard on the Autumn Holiday Program and bookings will soon be open. We have heaps of fun activities planned that you won’t want to miss out on! Be sure to check our website for updates and watch this space…

enrolment hotline
1300 366 437
www.extend.com.au
Are you interested in playing Basketball?

Mountain Tigers Basketball Club are looking for boys and girls to play in our Under 8 and Under 10 teams.

Registration for the upcoming 2015 Winter Season opens on Friday March 6 and closes on Friday March 20, 2015.

If you would like to register to play basketball with the Mountain Tigers Basketball Club, please contact our Registrar, Karlee Code at registrar@mountaintigers.com.au to obtain a registration form or come down to St Joesph’s College on Wednesday March 18 between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

Team selection will be held late April, 2015 and registration is required to be placed into a team.

Loan uniforms are supplied to all Under 8 players.

For more information, please contact our Registrar, Karlee Code on 0419 101 362 or our Secretary, Jo Eades on 0407 096 734.

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 next Friday 13th March

$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/HDOQP

Bookings close: Friday 13th of March

Enter the link above (exactly as it appears here) into your web browser’s address bar. Entering this into 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

No School Tomorrow

Friday 6th March

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Monday 9th March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Labour Day Weekend

PREPS FIRST WEDNESDAY

Wednesday attendance required for all Prep Students commencing next week Wednesday 11th March.

Working bee

15th March at 10 am.
(Thanks to Ben Martin who has already completed tasks.)

A list of jobs will be in next weeks newsletter.

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What’s the Issue?
“Let’s google dinosaurs.” Sound familiar? Searching the Web is so commonplace that even young children know what it means to “google.” But when your children really need to do research for school – or dive deeper into any topic – it helps to know some strategies for improving their results. Smart searching online can make a huge difference in the quality and relevance of the content your children find on the Internet. But it takes a bit of know-how to improve the chances of getting back the information they’re looking for. You can help your child search smarter – and waste less time – by helping them search like a pro.

Why Does It Matter?
Everyone knows there’s a huge amount of information on the Internet. But only a tiny fraction of this information will apply to your child’s needs. Although most children know how to type a keyword into Google, they may not understand that there are many ways to conduct a search, and that some are better than others.

Different search engines work differently. So if your family typically uses Google, you’ll discover a whole host of additional information by using search engines such as Bing, Ask, and Yahoo. Another kind of search engine is called a “meta-search engine,” which sends keywords to several different search engines at once. And search sites called directories select relevant data to match your search terms. By using a directory, you may not get as many search results, but the search results you do get are likely to be closer to what you’re looking for.

Finally, the links that come up in searches may have some strings attached – to advertisers. Regular keyword searches might yield anything from an advertisement to a sponsored link (basically a different kind of ad). Children can spend a lot of time in front of ads if they are not sure how to select the best search results. Common sense says search together with young kids. Younger children have a more difficult time searching and making sense of their search results. Your guidance will help them get the results they’re looking for.

Consider using safe search settings. Even typing innocent keywords into a search engine may yield search results you don’t want your children to see. If you decide not to turn on filters, then you may want to keep an eye on your kids during their search process. Choose search terms carefully. The most precise words will yield the best results. Add more words to narrow a search. As kids get farther into their search, they may want to narrow their results. For example, there’s a big difference between “Apple” and “Red Delicious Apples History United States.” Use synonyms. If kids can’t find what they’re looking for, have them try keywords that mean the same thing or are related. Point out sponsored links. These links often appear at the top of a search result list to encourage users to click on them first, and they’re usually labelled as sponsored. Remember that sponsored equals advertising.

GREAT HINT BELOW:
“When it comes to keyword searches, it is important to choose accurate and precise words. Let students know that adding more of these keywords can help narrow a search. A search for a single word may “fetch” a million sites to display on their results page. Adding more words fetches fewer sites that are closer to what you need. Another tip is to put words that belong together (such as a phrase, a full name, or lyrics of a song) in quotation marks. The search engine looks only for instances where these words are lumped together.”
GO BIG FOR THE KIDS

A TRIVIA AND AUCTION NIGHT FOR AYVA, COOPER AND JORJA

SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2015

EMMAUS COLLEGE HALL

HOSTED BY AFL LEGEND DOUG HAWKINS!

“At the end of the day, some you win, some you don’t. So I’m glad that I’m here with some friends that I know.

Always there with a smile saying you’re not alone. Singing la la la la......Que Sera.”

PLEASE JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

FOR UPDATES AND FOR TICKET PURCHASES

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/GOBIGFORTHEKIDS/