Dear Parents, Friends and Father Simon,

It’s week 3 already and I have had the opportunity of meeting and practising many students’ and families’ names. I still have many to go so please be patient with me if I am yet to learn yours - I will get there!

It has been a really positive start for me and I hope for our families also. The vibe around the school is a positive, inclusive and caring environment which is created by all of us.

Families contribute to this by sharing energy and enthusiasm with the students in after school interactions, engaging with other families when collecting children from school and the welcoming nature of morning cups in the staffroom. I encourage you to be part of our community in whichever way fits with your commitments. Teachers are keen to include helpers in the classroom with group activities and in other ways. Please don’t hesitate to share an hour here or there if you can, once you have completed the Child Safe induction process. See Michelle Burgess (or email mburgess@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au) for more information.

I am happy to report all the exciting and current things happening around our school such as student led assemblies, icy pole fundraising for the environment team (currently postponed until further notice), SRC nominations, morning cups in the staffroom and a P&F AGM this week too. Even our humble student toilets have received some improvements; new soap dispensers, toilet roll holders in the girls toilet and a steam clean of the boys toilets will hopefully enhance these well used facilities. More importantly, classrooms are busy learning centres where students are establishing routines and experiencing specialist classes. Instrument lessons for the students in Years 3-6 have also begun. St Thomas More is a great place to be!

Last week we had sensational weather for the Year 3-6 swimming trials at Belgrave Outdoor Pool. Congratulations to all students who participated and earned points for their house colours. Thank you also to the many parents who were able to come along as either a spectator or support person. It was wonderful to see so many of you. Good luck to those students who will continue on to the next level of competition.

Next week on Thursday 23 February we are having our first Parent - Teacher Meetings for the year. These meetings provide an opportunity for families to meet teachers and share information. They will run from 2pm to 8pm and require you to book your appointment online. There is no early finish for students on this day.

The playground is a happy environment with a variety of activities and games being played across all age levels. The interaction between the Year 6s and their Prep buddies is a delight to witness and a warm and friendly experience for our Prep students. I have been asked to play “Teacher Game” several times whilst on yard duty and admit it is helping me to learn new names.

School tour dates for 2017 have been set (and are on the calendar) but we also encourage prospective families to make an appointment for a mutually convenient time if the organised dates are not suitable. We are keen to promote our wonderful school throughout the wider community and welcome your word of mouth recommendations as well.

I am looking forward to increasing my knowledge of our school community to further develop connections and engagement of all families.

Have a wonderful week,

Caroline Quinton
Principal
**Weekly events . . .**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSEMBLY</th>
<th>Monday at 2.40pm in the Church.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPECIALIST CLASSES</td>
<td>Tuesday: Music sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Wednesday: Instrument lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Friday: Prep to Grade 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Friday: Prep to Grade 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E.</td>
<td>Tuesday: Prep to Grade 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**No Icy-Poles this Friday**

postponed until further notice

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**Diary Dates . . .**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 Feb</td>
<td>iPad meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for Grade 3 families 3.15pm OR 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>session in the staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 Feb</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Orders due today</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 21 Feb</th>
<th>Confirmation Parent &amp; Child Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>held at 7pm in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 Feb</td>
<td>No Preps today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 Feb</td>
<td>Senior School Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from 9am in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>families welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2pm to 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents book their interview time online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Enter Code: syzd5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 24 Feb</th>
<th>District Swimming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At Belgrave Pool for selected students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday 25 Feb & Sunday 26 Feb**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmation Mass for Confirmation students — families attend any of the weekend Masses at St Pauls or St Thomas More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28</td>
<td>Board Meeting from 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 March</td>
<td>No Preps today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Combined Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with St Pauls, St Thomas More to host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from 9.30am - families welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 March</td>
<td>Confirmation sessions 10—11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4 March</td>
<td>P&amp;F Bunnings BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At Narre Warren - parent help needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 March</td>
<td>Division Swimming selected students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at Aquanation Ringwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 March</td>
<td>Middle School Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from 9am in the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Families welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmation session 10—11am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Diary Dates**

**TERM DATES FOR 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>31 January - 31 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>18 April - 30 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>17 July - 22 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>9 October - 20 December 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES FOR 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19 May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9 June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6 November 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION**

Friday 15 September 2017

**SCHOOL FINISHING DAY**

Students last day end of Term 4

20 December 2017

---

**What Happens on a School Closure Day?**

Staff attend meetings and professional development days each year, called School Closure Days in the calendar.

There are no classes for students on a School Closure day. Extend out of school care, offers families who are registered with them, a program on these days at a set cost. Families will need to contact Extend if they wish to register for care. In our experience, the minimum number required for the program to run is not usually met. We suggest that families seek alternative arrangements to avoid disappointment should the Extend program not proceed.

We appreciate that closure days can cause an inconvenience to families and we thank you for your understanding and acknowledgement of the importance of these days.

**NOTE:** Preps first Wednesday attendance is 15th March 2017 (After Labour Day long weekend)
Parent Teacher Interview
Thursday 23rd February 2017

Our first Parent Teacher Meetings for 2017 will be held on Thursday 23 February between 2pm and 8pm and will be fifteen minutes in duration. We will signal the end of each 15 minute slot with a reminder bell. Please show consideration for others by helping to keep appointments to time.

The purpose of these appointments is to meet with teachers for information sharing. Teachers will be interested in finding out any important information that may affect your child’s learning. Things such as worries, concerns, and general wellbeing needs are extremely important to ensure that we can provide the best possible learning environment for your child. Teachers will share information identified in recent testing such as individual learning foci and students’ goal setting. For students in Years 3-6 we are asking that they attend these meetings (at least for the majority of the time) to contribute to and participate in these conversations. Our aim is to demonstrate that we are in a learning partnership with families. We also believe that we are able to help build resilience and responsibility for students’ own learning.

For families with PSGs (scheduled for Week 7) there will be no meetings on Thursday 23 February due to a tight timetable. However, should you wish to have an appointment with your child’s teacher prior to the PSG meetings, please make a mutually convenient time to meet on another day.

We are also very interested in meeting the communication needs of our school community and therefore ask that you participate in a short online survey (perhaps while waiting for your meeting time). Questions will be related to your preferred method for communication and the survey will be short with simple responses required. Obviously the more families who complete the survey a greater understanding of the communication needs and types will be gathered. Thank you for supporting us in our endeavour to provide an improved communication service.

Students finish at the usual time of 3.10pm
No Earlier finish for students on this day

We will be using the online booking format that you may have used last year.

Online booking is open - simply click on the link below.

If you are unable to secure a time via the online booking

---

P&F News

BUNNINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER
(Narre Warren)

Saturday 4th March

Offers of assistance on the day
VERY gratefully received.

If you can spare an hour or two...
- to help with food prep before the day
- Or on the day ...

Please email the office and indicate how you can assist.

office@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

---

St Thomas More

School Tour Dates

Tuesday 28 March from 9am
Friday 21 April from 9am
Wednesday 31 May from 2pm

We are keen to promote our wonderful school throughout the wider community and welcome your word of mouth recommendations.
**Lost Property**

The location of the lost property has moved to the cupboard outside of 5/6TC (upstairs).

Reminder for families to clearly label their childrens’ clothing.

---

**Appointments with the principal**

I am always happy to meet with parents.

If I am not available, please let the office staff know so they can make an appointment for you.

Thank you, Caroline Quinton

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**Medical Report Authorisation Form**

A big thank you to the families who have returned their Medical Report (Pink Form) so promptly.

This is a reminder for any that remain outstanding, if they could be RETURNED to school by families ASAP.

All students were sent home with a ‘pink copy’ of their Medical Report and over the page a Parental Authorisation Form.

Families, please make any necessary changes to this document, sign on both sides (circle I DO / DO NOT) and return ASAP ~ thank you in advance.

---

**No Icy-Poles this Friday**

postponed until further notice.

---

**PAYMENT OF ALL LEVIES NOW OVERDUE**

Or an ongoing payment plan started.

If you did not receive a Fee Schedule for 2017, please contact the office.

Or click on this link to download:
http://stmpsblmyschoolstream.net/?p=1139

**SCHOOL FEES**

School Invoices have been issued for School Fees - thank you to those families who have already paid their school fees or have started a payment plan.

If you have any concerns regarding payment, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Caroline Quinton, to discuss this further.

**LEVY per student for 2017**

- Subject Levy Gr Prep - 6 $304.00
- Equipment Levy Gr P – 2 $70.00
- Gr 3 – 6 $103.00

**Additional Expenses for 2017**

(to be paid by the end of Term 1, 2017)

- Incursion Year 2 Fun Night $10.00
- Camps Grades 3 – 4 $100.00
- Grades 5 – 6 $180.00
- Physical Ed Gr Prep - 6 $78.00

**FEES for 2017**

(fees are due to be paid at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 & 3, 2017)

- One child family $1,788.00
  ($596.00 x 3 instalments)
- Two plus child family $2,160.00
  ($720.00 x 3 instalments)
- Working Bee Levy:
  (per family) $100.00
  (full rebate applied if a working bee is attended during the year)

---

Set-Up your payment plan today.
Attention:
Do you have a current Health Care Card / Pension Concession Card?

CSEF Allowance Applications are now open for Parents of currently enrolled students who are in receipt of a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card. CSEF (Camps, Sport and Excursion Fund) is a yearly allowance of $125 per student to be applied to your family account. This allowance will act as a credit which can be used to help pay for any camp, sport or excursion in which your child participates.

The credit can ONLY be used for the purpose intended (camps, sports activities or incursions/excursions) so cannot be credited to other outstanding charges and is not redeemable for cash. Any unused portion of the payment will carry over to the next year.

Applications are being procession NOW, so if you think you are eligible, please come to the office to collect an application form as soon as possible.

PLEASE ENSURE THERE IS A COPY OF YOUR HEALTH CARE/PENSION CARD ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION OR BRING IT TO THE OFFICE SO A COPY CAN BE MADE.

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Working With Children Check & Child Safe Application Form essential for all parent HELP IN THE CLASSROOM

All parents/grandparents who at some stage intend to help out in the classroom OR attend excursions etc will need to have a current Working with Children Check & have completed a Child Safe application form and induction session at school.

WWCC Application forms are available from the Post Office and are FREE for volunteers (Just need to provide passport photo). Contact the office for a copy of our Child Safe volunteer application form.

School Volunteers
A reminder that our procedures for volunteers has changed in response to the Ministerial Order No. 870 which is related to Child Safety.

This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children. So during Term 4, 2016, the school ran two Child Safe Information sessions. At these meetings volunteer application forms were handed out for completion. Thank you to those who have returned their completed document. For those who are yet to do so, it’s not too late and we encourage you to send in your documents as soon as convenient.

For those families who did not attend the Child Safe sessions and would still be interested in volunteering at STM, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office to pick up a volunteer application form or contact Michelle Burgess mburgess@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au for more information.

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Communication from school to home . . .

1. Families are highly encouraged to download our Schoolstream App as events are updated daily or as needed. Additional functions of the app includes various school forms eg: Absentee form, Before School Care form. (download from the app store)
2. Newsletter is emailed every second Thursday or is available on our Schoolstream app.
3. Classroom newsletter termly.
4. Instagram Parents can download from the App Store & request to join “stmps17”. Contact the office if we do not accept your request. Usually it is because your username does not identify you by a name we recognise.
5. P&F Facebook Page: currently being updated.
6. Parent Teacher Interviews Term 1—Thursday 23rd February

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Have a question?
Please do not hesitate to call or email the relevant staff member at our school. Please allow until the next School day for a staff member to respond to your email.

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Safety First
CLASSROOM HELPERS COURSE 2017
-EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST—FINAL CALL!!!

Each year we run a Classroom Helpers course, which is open to parents and other family members. This course focuses on early reading, writing, speaking & listening and numeracy skills and is a pre-requisite if you wish to help in the Prep-2 classrooms during Literacy or Maths. (This year we will also be covering the new Child Safe requirements for volunteers.)

We plan to start the course in a couple of weeks and will run sessions either during the day or in the evening, depending on demand and to best suit as many as possible.

If you are interested, please indicate which days and times you would be able to attend via the link by:

- clicking here (or http://stmps.mb.myschoolstream.net/?p=1108
- filling in the attached slip, or
- remailing either of us.

The junior grades appreciate parent helpers to help run effective Literacy and Maths lessons, and we would love as many parents as possible to complete the course. Even if you are not able to help in the classroom, you would be most welcome to attend to find out how to help your child with their learning. Some people may also be interested to find out more about how things work at STM. In other words, everyone is most welcome!

There will be 2x2 hour sessions or 4x1 hour (once again, we’ll decide when we know what suits most people best).

- 9-11am on a Wednesday or Thursday
- 2-3pm on a Wednesday or Thursday
- 7-9pm on a Monday or Thursday

Thank you,
Judy Smith
Literacy Leader
judys@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au.

Monica Rayner
Maths Leader
monica@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Classroom Helpers Course Reply Slip

I would like to attend the Classroom Helpers course.

I am able to attend at the following times:

9-11am: □ Wednesday □ Thursday
2-3pm: □ Wednesday □ Thursday
7-9pm: □ Monday □ Thursday

Your name:__________________________________________
Email address:______________________________________

FIRST AID WASHING ROSTER FOR 2017

Thank you to the families who have indicated that they are happy to assist—before a roster is started, we would really appreciate additional assistance from families AND to take on the “organisational role”

Please volunteer yourself for this position.
Contact the office if you are able to offer a lending hand.

Hi,
I'm Oscar I'm in grade 3/4D.
Soon, I’ll be doing the MS Megaswim to raise money for MS.
My Aunty has MS, and my family has been doing this race for years, and this year is my first time. I’ve been training since I was a baby! Would you like to donate some money?

Go to: www.msmegaswim.org.au
and search for me (Oscar Rayner), or see me at school.

Thanks! Oscar

Belcoma Netball Club
JUNIOR NETBALL PLAYERS NEEDED
Aged 7 to 14

Contact: Jenny 0408 933 956
belcomasec@gmail.com
(enquiries for other age groups welcome)
Dental services for children

Your local community dental service offers
LOW-COST dental services for all children FREE if you have a Centrelink concession card

Dental health is essential for overall health and wellbeing. Regular dental check-ups are important to catch any problems early.

Who can access this service?
The Child Dental Health Program is available to all children aged 0-17 through your local community health service. Your child will have priority access which means there is no waiting list; they will be given the next available appointment.

What does the service include?
This service includes:
- emergency care
- general care (i.e., fillings, extractions and sealants)
- dental health advice

How much does it cost?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency care - All children (12 years and under)</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General care - Children (17 years and under)</td>
<td>CAPPED AMOUNT PER CHILD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- are government concession card holders or dependents of concession card holders
- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- are in out-of-Home care provided by the Child, Youth and Families Division of the Department of Human Services
- attend a special or special development school

General care - For general course of care that includes an exam and all general dental treatment with a max $5 cap per-family per-year.

Children (17 years and under) who do not fit into any of the above categories

To make an appointment contact
Knox Community Health Service
1083 Burwood Highway
Ferntree Gully, 3156
ph: 9757 0200

For more information visit www.dhs.vic.gov.au

FOOTY ROADSHOW

AFL YARRA RANGES IS HOLDING A FOOTY ROADSHOW TO PROMOTE THE START OF LOCAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL IN THE REGION

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLAYING LOCAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL OR UMPIRING OR JUST WANT TO HAVE SOME FOOTY FUN COME AND JOIN US AND PLAY ON THE INFILTRATOR
- Local club representatives will be in attendance to promote their clubs
- Umpiring representative will be there to promote umpiring
- Football clinics
- Fun and fitness

26th February 9am to 12pm
Seville Recreation Reserve, Monbulk-Seville Rd, Seville

5th March 9am to 12pm
Upwey Secondary School Oval, Chosen Ave, Upwey

For further information: Dean Rice - rice.dean@afl.com.au or 9735 5346

2017 College Tour Dates

▶ Weekend Tours 10:00am
- Sunday 26 February
- Sunday 19 March
- Sunday 21 May
- Sunday 18 June
- Sunday 6 August
- Sunday 12 November

▶ Twilight Tours 7:00pm
- Thursday 16 February
- Thursday 12 October

▶ School in Action 9:00 - 11:00am
- Wednesday 8 March

Arrange a Personal Tour contact 9754 6611 or mcc@materchristi.edu.au

2017 JUNIOR FOOTBALL
Dear Parents/Carers

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At St Thomas More’s we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively.

We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth again in 2017. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research that highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Seasons for Growth runs for eight weeks and each weekly session is 40-45 minutes. The program concludes with a ‘Celebration’ session. Later in the year each group will have the opportunity to meet to build on their earlier learning.

Seasons for Growth will commence shortly and will be facilitated by Judy Smith and/or Amanda Pawley who have received special training in the use of this program. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we would encourage you to talk to him/her first about this. Should he/she decide to participate please fill in the tear-off Expression of Interest slip below and return to the school by next **TOMORROW 17th February 2017**. Or complete the form on the Schoolstream link: [http://stmyps.myschoolstream.net/?p=1142](http://stmyps.myschoolstream.net/?p=1142)

St Thomas More is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved.

**Judy Smith & Amanda Pawley**  
STM Season for Growth Companions  
judys@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au  
amanda@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Seasons for Growth-Expression of interest

I________________________________________________________ give consent for my

son/daughter_____________________________________________ would like my child to be

considered for the Seasons for Growth program. I have discussed this with him/her.

Type of loss experienced by the child:______________________________________________________________

__________________________________________  __________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature  Child’s Signature