23rd October, 2015

**Dates for Your Diary**

**Tuesday 27th Oct** — Extra Special Assembly all welcome 12.30pm in the hall.

**Friday 30th October** — 2016 Preps story session in the Library 9am

**Monday 2nd November** — School Closure Day for Report Writing

**Tuesday 3rd November** — Melbourne Cup Holiday

**Friday 30th October** — Celebration of Nao Nagle (Presentation Sisters). Mass at 9am

**Monday 23rd November** — School Pre Advent Christmas Concert

**Tuesday 24th November** — Prep Transition 9am-11am.

Wednesday 25th November

**Tuesday 1st December** — Prep Transition 9am-12am.

**Tuesday 8th December** — Prep Transition 9am-1pm

**School Fees:**

School fees for 2015 need to be finalised by mid-November please. We have many outstanding accounts for this time of the year. Our bills also have to be paid. St Kieran’s cannot function effectively without School Fees. Outstanding fee accounts will be now handled by the Catholic Education Office.

**BREAKFAST**

Thank you to Amie Cook for organizing our ‘Day for Daniel/Walk to School’ Breakfast on Wednesday. What a great turn out. Thank you to all those people who helped to clean up after. We raised just over $200 for the Daniel Morecombe Foundation.

**Special Assembly**

On Tuesday we will be having an extra assembly for a special presentation to one of our children. The assembly is for a NAIDOC week competition.

We will be having the Latrobe City Mayor, Darren Hariman, our Federal Member, Russell Broadbent and a representative from the CEO here with us.

The assembly will be held in the hall at 12.30pm come along and join us.

Joanne Johnson
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**P & F**

*The next P&F Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th October, 9am. Please come along and help us with planning for the school.*

**Tuck Shop Roster**

*Thursday 29th Oct – Christine Luke & Bev Keily*

*Friday 30th Oct – Melissa Ballantine, Alison Keily & Skye Mc Kendry*

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*Thursday 5th Nov – Carrie Murphy & Kristy Walsh*

*Friday 6th Nov – Amie Cook, Belinda Vella & Carrie Murphy*

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**Victoria Walks – Incursion ‘Walkshops’**

*Our Yr 4/5/6 students enjoyed an Incursion Walkshop session last week conducted by Leigh Cawood from Victoria Walks.*

*The Walkshop: Measuring Smart Steps, was an interactive session based around the use of pedometers. The sessions involved some fun activities with a maths and science focus. It was a great way to engage and challenge our students as part of Walk to School October.*

*We thank Leigh for conducting the sessions and we thank Victoria Walks for their generous donation of a class set of pedometers.*

*The photos show the senior children working with the pedometers.*
Walk to School October
Thank you to all those parents, students and staff who have been walking, riding or scooting to school this month as part of Walk to School October. Most classes have more than half of their students participating so this is a great effort. Remember that part of the way is okay if you live too far away to walk the whole distance.

ST MARY’S SCHOOL FETE
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2015
10AM–2PM
50 MONASH Rd. NEWBOROUGH
RIDE WRISTBANDS

Wristbands cover - giant fibre glass slide, mini pacer cars, bungi run, jumping castles, laser tag, cha cha ride, animal nursery, zorb balls and mini golf

Wristband can be ordered now from St. Mary’s School Office to save $$ and avoid the queues on Fete Day.
Pre-Fete Day - $25, or 2 @ $45, or 3 @ $65
On Fete Day - $30 each (no family discount)
Individual Ride  $5

The importance of full time attendance

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 – 17 years unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted. Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don’t fall behind both socially and developmentally. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

School participation is important as it maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

Conversely, limited school participation is associated with a greater chance of dropping out of school, disruptive and delinquent behaviour and may lead to a cycle of rebellion against authority. These outcomes have later implications for employment, a range of health risk behaviours (drug and alcohol abuse), homelessness, poverty, welfare dependence, and involvement in the justice system

Parent responsibilities

Parents are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school, and the principal must record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent. The principal must be able to determine from the records if the excuse given was reasonable in terms of the parent meeting their legal obligations.

Parents should inform the school of the reason for their child’s absence so that the school can:
• determine if the child’s absence needs to be excused by the principal, in line with school policy and these guidelines
• determine the appropriate follow up to ensure the child’s education and wellbeing is supported
• record if the parent has a reasonable excuse for not meeting their obligation to ensure their child attends school each day.

Where possible, parents should inform the school in advance of upcoming absences.

School responsibilities

The school must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and in every class in secondary schools and record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary to:
• meet legislative requirements
• discharge schools’ duty of care for all students
• assist calculation of the school’s funding
• enable the school governing body (school council in government schools) to report on student attendance annually
• meet Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements (for VCE students).

Where absences are of concern due to their nature or frequency, the school will involve the parents and the student as appropriate in developing strategies to improve attendance.

Parents should be informed that if a student has repeated absences without a reasonable excuse or explanation, the parent may be issued with a School Attendance Notice from a School Attendance Officer.