Dear Parents and Friends of St Catherine’s School Community

A few years ago a rather interesting movement had its birth in Italy: “More than 30 Italian cities and towns have banded together to form a league of Slow Cities”. (The Telegraph Group, London)

It seems that this movement was born from a backlash against fast food and was for promoting organic agriculture, local traditional foods and generally a lifestyle set in harmony with nature. The movement’s leaders thought that their towns were ever more being besieged by cars, noise and air pollution and more and more losing their individual identities. All this seems to be highly recognisable and in no way confined to the 30 Italian cities.

I don’t know the author of the following lines but they were down on paper before the Slow Cities Movement was up and going.

“Slow me down, Lord,
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations,
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend, to pat a dog,
to read a few lines from the Scriptures.

Remind me each day of the fable
of the hare and the tortoise, that I may know
that the race is not always to the swift -
that there is more to life then increasing the speed.

Let me look upward into the branches
of the towering oak and know
that it grew great and strong
because it grew slowly and well.”

If we are not vigilant we can be tempted to push children along at rates of progress in school, social and sporting life that are just not possible for them to either maintain, cope with or benefit from. Children have the right to enjoy a life at a pace appropriate to their age and in imitation of the megastars. Often times, the result of too much early acceleration is to gradually lower the self esteem and self confidence of a child, because they can’t keep up the pace. In the years ahead this can lead to the deprivation of the enjoyment of various experiences when those experiences should be enjoyed.

Children are so very much in need of adults who will listen to them, talk with them, attempt to understand life from the child’s point of view then give them direction based on sound Christian values in a relaxed environment. As adults, we tend to look back on our own childhood with fond memories as a time of much enjoyment and few worries. Likewise, as adults we have a wonderful opportunity to ensure that our children can have like memoires.
“Reclaim Your Sacred Site. 
Clear a little space in your crowded everyday life 
and every day reclaim the Sacred Site 
there at the heart of you. 
Give the Sacred the space and time 
to come and sit with you 
to become intimate with your story.” 
Noel Davis

Term 2 in Review
In looking back over the 11 weeks, which have been Term 2, there has certainly been an incredible amount that has taken place and indeed kept many of us well and truly on our toes. The support of parents and carers in every aspect of what happens has been extremely valued and an important contribution to the quality of what we are able to offer here at St Catherine’s School. This term we have had:

- House Cross Country
- ANZAC Day Student Representation
- St Catherine’s Feast Day
- Catholic Education Week
- Diocesan Student Leaders Mass in Sale
- St Margaret’s Netball Competition
- Open Day for New Families
- Mother’s Day Stall
- NAPLAN
- Interschool Sports Program
- Casey South Division Cross Country
- National Simultaneous Storytime
- Community Action Day
- Regional Cross Country
- Life Education

With so much over this first term, the coming holiday break is no doubt well deserved.

Child Safety
Last week, the School Board accepted the following three documents for implementation:

- Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting
- Child Protection - Abuse, Grooming & Neglect Identification & Initial Notification (New)
- Child Protection – Working with Children Checks

The Mandatory Report Policy and the Working with Children Checks Policy are not new but have been reviewed to ensure that they meet the new child safety reforms.

All documents can be viewed on a school website via the following link:

Working with Children Checks
Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with the reviewed Working with Children Checks Policy. In particular, I draw all parents to the obligations of volunteers with respect to the Working with Children Checks:

- Upon receiving clearance, it is compulsory that the employee/volunteer show their WWC Check Card to St Catherine’s and provide their Card and Application Receipt numbers.
- The employee/volunteer must notify the Victorian Department of Justice within 21 days of any changes to their name, residential address, birth date or phone numbers provided in the application.
- The employee/volunteer must notify the Department of the details of a new organisation they are starting child-related work with within 21 days.
- The employee/volunteer must stop working immediately if their WWC Check Card has been suspended during a reassessment.
- The employee/volunteer must not let another person use their WWC Check Card for child-related work and must lodge a renewal form before the Card expires.
Federal Funding for Victorian Catholic Schools

As the Federal election closes, it is important that all within our Catholic education community are informed about the basic facts of school funding in Victoria. To that end, please find attached to this week’s newsletter, an information sheet that has been prepared by the Catholic Education Victoria Commission (CECV) for distribution to school families.

Annual Book Fair

The annual Book Fair will take place this week, coinciding with the Parent /Teacher Interviews on Thursday afternoon/ evening and Friday morning. This week in Library lessons the children have had the opportunity to view the books and to make a “wish list”, but it is up to parents to decide what or if the children can buy.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent /Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday, 23\textsuperscript{rd} June from 2.45pm – 8.30pm and on Friday 24\textsuperscript{th} June from 9am – 12.30pm. All interview appointments should have been made through School Interviews Online. If you have not made an appointment, please ring the Office as soon as possible.

“Letter of Offer”

The Foundation 2017 “Letter of Offer” will be posted towards the end of this week and the Acceptance of Enrolment must be received at school by Friday, 15\textsuperscript{th} July. An interview appointment time for you and your child must be made when returning the Acceptance of Enrolment Form.

At this time of the year, we begin to have a number of enrolment inquiries for year levels other than Foundation. With position vacancies in some year levels quickly being filled and with waiting lists already resulting for many areas of the school, it is essential that we are made aware as soon as is practicable of possible movement. If your family will be moving and your child/children will be going to another school next year (except Year 6), please let us know in writing as soon as possible.

Regional Cross Country

Congratulations on the great effort made by four of our students at regional Cross Country last week. Once again, they represented our school and themselves with great pride. Well done!

Term 3 Art Show and Concert

Next term is our Arts term. We will have the Art Show on the evening of Thursday, 28\textsuperscript{th} July and during the day on Friday, 29\textsuperscript{th} July. St Catherine’s Concert will take place on Wednesday, 14\textsuperscript{th} September at the Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University at Clayton.

Parent Use of Toilets

In the interest of safety for everybody, it is asked that parents requiring the use of toilets to use staff facilities by asking at the Front Office. Under no circumstances do we ask that you use student toilets. These are for student use only.

Final Day of Term

Please note that the final day of term will be Thursday, 23\textsuperscript{rd} June with students breaking up at 2:30pm.

Return for Term 3

Parents are reminded that the return for Term 3 is Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} July.

I wish each and every one of you a terrific two-week break and looking forward to catching up with you all in the new term.

Yours in Catholic Education

Kevin Browning
**ASSEMBLY**
There will be no Assembly this week due to Parent Teacher Interviews

**CANTEEN NEWS**
Canteen will operate as per normal tomorrow even though there is an early finish.

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**R.E. NEWS**
Parish Weekend Masses:
- **Saturday**: 6pm  
- **Sunday**: 9am, 10.30am and 6pm
Reconciliation: **Saturday** 9.30 – 10am and 5.30pm or by arrangement.

Rosary Beads: **Rosary Beads are available for purchase at the cost of $1.00. Please send the money in an envelope marked with your child’s name and grade.**

**Confirmation**: Please continue to pray for the children who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation and for those who will be confirmed over the next week. May they use the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit as they continue their faith journey.

**First Communion**: Please put the following dates in your diary
- **Enrolment Evening**: Tuesday 19th July at 7.30pm in the Church
- **Commitment Masses**: Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July at all Masses
- **Parent/Child Workshops**: Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st, Thursday 1st September
- **Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th September** in the St Michael’s School Stadium

Blessing of the Children’s Masses: Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th at all Masses

Reflection Day: Wednesday 5th October

Ceremonies: Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th October  
Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th October  
Saturday 22nd, Sunday 23rd October  
Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th October

All First Communion Masses will be held at St Michael’s, our Parish Church.

Peggy Harvey  
REL

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**UNIFORM SHOP**
**PLEASE NOTE OUR UNIFORM SHOP PRICE LISTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER SCHOOL COMMUNITY/SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**Open Hours**
- **Monday and Friday**: 8:30am-10:45am  
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**: 8:30am-9:00am

**To order:**
- Visit the Uniform Shop,
- Phone, sms or email your order to Jan
- Complete order form and leave with Class Teacher or Reception. If paid in full, goods will be delivered to Class Teacher.
- You can email your order to jan-k@bigpond.com, or SMS or phone 0448 060 100, or complete an order form which can be left at uniform shop, send to shop via your child, or left at reception - or visit the uniform shop during open hours.

Note: Unpaid goods will be held for one week ONLY in the shop awaiting payment and collection.

Iron on labels 80 cents per label or $3.50 for 5

Thankyou

Jan

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**PRINCIPAL AWARDS**

**YEAR 1BH:**  
Hayden Campos  
Tewila Singh

**YEAR 5SC:**  
Louis Binoy  
Elisha Lane  
Sienna Stanilovic

**YEAR 3LV:**  
Charlotte Cummings  
Elly Griscti
IF YOU ARE SEEKING TO BECOME CATHOLIC OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, PLEASE COME ALONG TO ST MICHAEL’S PARISH CENTRE BERWICK. YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE RCIA JOURNEY OF FAITH.

The journey begins on Tuesday 12th and 19th July 2016 at 7.30pm. For further details please contact RCIA Coordinator
associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au
ph. 9707-1355 or 9707 4072
RCIA- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS
Irene Dipu
Jessica Melhem
Benjamin Andrews
Connor Mouat
Isabella Rob
Alana Brennan
MacAllan Dodd
Charlotte Goodman
Bethany Mahinay
Adriana Grasic
Lukas Philipp
Mikki Nunziante-Sweeney
Joylen Feltaous
Matilda Molzen
Dineth Perera
Jotsna Jose
Samantha Honti
Ethan Van Weeghel
Elina Pinto
Emmanuel Rossi
Leah Cook
Emerson O’Dea
Tiaan Pereira
Amber Snowden

Student of the Week Acacia Conroy
For handing in lost property to the office.
Welcome to our

Anointing & Healing Mass

At St Michael’s Catholic Church
High Street, Berwick

On Thursday 21st July at 10:30am
Light lunch provided

*Please invite a neighbour or friend to share in this Gift of the Holy Spirit*

School Holiday Program

Winter School Holidays
Moonlit Sanctuary Junior Ranger Program
Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities, fun and games for ages 7-14 years.

Winter school holiday dates:
- Week 1: Monday 26th June to Friday 1st July 10am – 4pm
- Week 2: Monday 4th to Friday 8th July 10am – 4pm

Cost: $65.00 per day, or $175 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days). Maximum 16 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited
Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the cafe.

Moonlit Sanctuary
550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Phone 5978 7935
Open daily between 10am and 5pm
Catholic schools are a major partner in Victoria’s education system. One in four children are taught in one of the 493 Catholic primary, secondary and special schools throughout the state.

At this federal election, it’s important to remember that funding from the Australian Government constitutes a huge part of your school’s budget. On average, 62 cents in every dollar spent in Victorian Catholic schools comes from the Australian Government. After state government contributions (about 17 cents in the dollar), Catholic school families on average pay the remaining 21 cents.

Government funding ensures that Catholic schools can provide an enriching curriculum that develops the whole child, preparing your child to thrive in the 21st-century global economy. Our student achievement scores demonstrate that these dollars are being put to very good use.

The average ATAR score achieved by Victorian Catholic school students is six points higher than similar government school students, and our system’s average NAPLAN scores in literacy are on average three per cent higher.

Government funding is also essential to our mission of keeping parent fees affordable so that Catholic schools are accessible to as many Catholic families as possible.

Any move to cut or freeze Catholic school funding would have a devastating impact on the quality of your child’s education and the fees you pay.

At this election, both the Liberal– Nationals Coalition and the ALP have recognised the continued social and economic value of Catholic schools by committing to continued funding for our system.

Unfortunately, Catholic schools don’t have the same commitment from the Greens. Some of their policies seek to undermine your choice of a faith-based education for your child, not only by attacking our values, but also by taking money from Catholic and other non-government schools. This would lead to a poorer education system for all children around the country.

This Election Day, please take this information into consideration. The future of your child’s education may depend on it.
Yes, It’s on again!!

Mens Footy Night!!

Don’t miss this year’s 2016

St Catherine’s Men’s Footy Night began in 2001 and has enjoyed growing success ever since. The night provides an opportunity for the men of our school community to get together for a social evening. Whether you are new to the school or an “old hand”, everyone is welcome. Food and entertainment provided. BYO drinks.

If you are interested in joining us for a fun night, please complete the slip below and return it to school A.S.A.P. so that we can make appropriate catering arrangements. The cost is $15 per Person.

PLEASE PAY ON THE NIGHT.

RAFFLES & COMPETITIONS - Be sure to bring some loose change
Men’s Footy Night 2016!! Friday 9th September
Please return this slip to school or email to confirm numbers:
williams@awdonhill.com.au

Name:____________________

Number of people:____________

St Catherine’s invites you to a MEN’S FOOTY NIGHT. Friday 9th September from 7.00pm in St Catherine’s Multi Purpose Room. You bring your own drinks.

For $15 we will provide unlimited BBQ sausages with onions / pies etc throughout the night and the 1st AFL Final on the BIG SCREEN!
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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>July 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45am – Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Girls AFL Competition</td>
<td>DISCO?</td>
<td>Foundation acceptances due</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
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<td>P&amp;F 7pm</td>
<td>First Communion enrolment evening</td>
<td>School Board 7pm</td>
<td>Interschool Sports – Home – Silvers versus St Michael’s Away – Maroon versus St Michaels</td>
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<td>9.45am – Olympiad Team MacKillop</td>
<td>9.00–3.15pm – Year 1 travelling Kitchen Incursion MacKillop Space</td>
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<td>9.45am Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>ART SHOW</td>
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<td>ART SHOW</td>
<td>Interschool Sports – Home – Maroon versus Trinity Away – Silvers at St Therese’s</td>
<td>First Communion 31st – Commitment Masses</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
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<td>August 3</td>
<td>August 4</td>
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<td>August 13/14</td>
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<td>Junior Hoorpome – Year 3 and 4 teams</td>
<td>9.45am – Olympiad Team MacKillop</td>
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<td>CAD</td>
<td>(DLT) Interschool Sports – Home – Silvers versus St Brigid’s Away – Maroons at St Agatha’s</td>
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<td>August 8</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>August 12</td>
<td>August 20/21</td>
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<td>Mary MacKillop Feast Day Liturgy Wakalirri Performance</td>
<td>9.45am Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
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<td>District Athletics (Casey Fields)</td>
<td>Interschool Sports</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
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<td>Feast of the Assumption</td>
<td>9.45am Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
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<td>7.30pm – School Board - AGM</td>
<td>Interschool Sports – Home – Maroon’s versus St Agatha’s Away – Silvers at St Agatha’s</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
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<td>Sept 3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOOK WEEK</td>
<td>Roald Dahl Witches, Giants, Peaches &amp; Tufts – In MacKillop Senior Hoorpome – Year 5 and 6 teams</td>
<td>9.45am Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
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<td>Interschool Sports – Home – Maroo versus St Brigid’s Away – Silvers versus St Thomas – Cranbourne North</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
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<td>Sept 1</td>
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<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium 9.45am Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium</td>
<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
<td>Interschool Sports</td>
<td>F.C Blessing of the Children Masses</td>
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<td>Sept 5</td>
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<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium 9.45am – Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium</td>
<td>F.C Workshop – 7:30 St Michaels Stadium</td>
<td>Interschool Sports – Lighting Prem</td>
<td>Sept 14 CONCERT Division Athletics (Casey Fields)</td>
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<td>9.45am – Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>9.45am – Olympiad Team in MacKillop</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>End of Term 2.30pm</td>
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