Sunday July 7th is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. May this blessing keep us safe and well during the coming holidays.

FIRE BLESSING  A gift from Burnum Burnum

An ancient Prayer... 40,000 years old...
Handed down through the Aboriginal culture and translated into the English language.

May the fire be in our thoughts
Making them true, good and just,
May it protect us from the evil one.

May the fire be in our eyes;
May it open our eyes to share what is good in life.
We ask that the fire may protect us from what Is not rightfully ours.

May the fire be on our lips, so that we may
Speak the truth in kindness; that we may serve
And encourage others.
May it protect us from speaking evil.

May the fire be in our ears.
We pray that we may hear with a deep, deep listening
So that we may hear the flow of water, and of all Creation.
And the dreaming.
May we be protected from gossip and from things That harm and break down our family.

May the fire be in our arms and hands
So that we may be of service and build up love.
May the fire protect us from all violence.

May the fire be in our whole being -
In our legs and in our feet.
Enable us to walk the earth
With reverence and care;
So that we may walk in the ways of goodness and truth
And be protected from walking away from what is truth.
Dear Parents

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank all those that have contributed to the school in many different ways throughout the first half of the year. The generous contribution of time and talents by so many people is very much appreciated and helps build a strong learning community. Congratulations to all our children throughout the school for their hard work and consistent efforts during term 1 & 2.

All parents are advised not to park or drive in any part of the parish property/school yard between 8.00am-9.00am and 3.00pm-4.00pm. This presents a high risk to ensure the safety of all our children.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MESSAGING TOOLS

Internet usage and children using social media sites and apps such as ‘kik, facebook and instagram’ continues to present parents with some very challenging areas that required careful supervision. Feed back over recent weeks indicates an increasing number of children from grade 3 to 6 are accessing these communication tools with very little adult supervision. The consequences of publishing comments, chats and messages via these social tools is done so with little understanding of the potential harm caused. Parents must make themselves aware of these tools being used by their children and need to closely monitor what comments are circulating. These are not harmless innocent communication tools when the content of what circulates is hurtful and deliberately targeted about other children. If your child has access to an ipad, ipod, computer or smart phone then as the adult responsible you should be checking carefully what this devise is being used for. Do not assume that all usage is innocent chat, CHECK!!! There is age limits that apply to the downloading of these apps/web sites, a simple check on the internet would suggest that access for primary school aged children should be extremely limited.

PLEASE NOTE

END OF TERM 2 WILL BE 1.30PM ON FRIDAY 28TH JUNE.

CLOSURE DATE FOR TERM 3

Please put these dates in your diary for next term.

- Monday 15th July
- Wednesday 21st August

TENNIS COURT PARKING

All parents are advised not to park in the tennis court yard inside the back gate between 8.00am – 9.00am and 3.00pm – 4.00pm. This presents a high risk for children accessing the school yard before and after school. Your cooperation with this will help to ensure the safety of all children.

COOK BOOKS

Copies of our school cookbook “Food Safari – a legacy of recipes” are available to be purchased for $25 from the school office at any stage. This is an excellent publication that could be used as a family resource or as a great birthday gift with a real individual touch for anyone that loves cooking.
REMINDER

ART SHOW 2013
SAVE THIS DATE!
TERM 3
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

AS YEAR ONE ARE USING THE HALL THE ART SHOW WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CORRIDORS AND KIRINARI CENTRE

SPORTS NEWS

Cross Country:
Congratulations to Ned Mulkearns (Yr 6) for his excellent running in recent Cross Country events at Brimbank Park. He has progressed through to the Victorian State Cross Country Final in July. We wish him well.

U/12 State Netball Team trials:
Congratulations to Tayissa Moravski (Yr 6). She has competed in 4 levels of trials for the State Netball team. Although she was not selected in the final team, she was within the last 50 girls in the state. A great effort Tayissa.

Year 6 Sport:
All teams have had a great time competing, developing their skills and combining as a team to achieve some very good results in our winter sports this term.
I have been impressed with their good play and sense of sportsmanship throughout the term. Congratulations to all our Yr 6 students and to the ten Yr 5 students who helped make up numbers.

Our overall results so far are: (we have our final game today Thurs 26th June)

Football:  2 wins & 4 Losses
Soccer:    0 wins, 4 Losses & 2 Draws
Girls Netball: 0 wins & 6 Losses
Mixed Netball: 6 wins & 0 Losses
T - ball:    3 wins & 3 Losses

As a result of the good wins by the mixed netball team they will represent the Essendon District and play Our Lady of Nativity Primary School on Friday the 19th July. Well done and good luck.

Athletics:

Some advanced notice. Trials for our school Athletics team (Year 4, 5 & 6 students) will begin early next term and the Inter-School competition is in Week 9 of Term 3.
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulation to the following students who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge:
Prep Blue: Katia Brasher
Prep Gold: Marnie Watson
1 Blue: Audrey Box
1 Gold: Madeleine Campana
2 Blue: Sienna Brasher, Tara Werden
2 Green: Sophia Brasher
3 Gold: Claudia Passalacqua, TianaMannarino

When you have met the challenge, please email me so I can verify your reading list.
If you have returned the consent form and have not received your user name and password please email me and I will forward these to your ASAP.
Finally, it is not too late to join, just pick up a consent form from the office.

Happy Reading, Enjoy your reading
Alison Mammone

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will increase for eligible recipients at all years up to age 16, with additional increase for parents’ students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (Year 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 until the age of age16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

NEW EMA PAYMENTS OPTION

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection OR
- PAID TO THE SCHOOL TO BE HELD AS CREDIT WHICH YOU CAN USE TOWARDS EDUCATION EXPENSES

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up the age of sixteen and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 (the parent or guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card) or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS 2013

- INSTALMENT TWO - PREP $60
- YEAR 1-6 $45

Contact the School office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application form to be submitted to the school is 2nd August 2013.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the two St Vincent teams who made it into the Grade Final last Saturday. The D Grade 4 team which consists of Alexander Ozimkovski-Klein, Noah Cakaric, Matthew Harrington, Matthew Foley and Elliott Mahoney came runners up.

The D Special team which consists of Davis Alexander, Flynn Diana, Nick Foley, Ben Davies and Matthew Galliott were the Grand Final Winners. We have been lucky enough to have four teams playing for St Vincent’s this season and three of these made it through to the semi finals.
Maths Puzzles

As it is the end of term we have some puzzles for all the family to try and solve over the holidays! You will need a team effort. Post your entry in the boxes at the office at the start of next term. Everyone who enters wins a prize! Good luck and enjoy the break.

Raymond and James – Yr 6 Mathematics Leaders

A Farming Puzzle

Thanks to Sam Hengel for submitting this puzzle.

Peter the farmer has 9 sheep and 4 pens. He can only put an odd number of sheep in each pen. How many sheep would be in each pen?

How Much Money?

What is the maximum number of $1 coins that can fit, lying flat in a single layer without overlapping, in a shape with an area of 4 m²?

Explain how you worked out your answer.
JUNE
27th
Inter-School Sports (Home)
28th
END OF TERM TWO (STUDENT DISMISSED AT 1.30PM)

JULY
15th
TERM THREE BEGINS – SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
16th
STUDENTS RETURN
24th
Mass – Year Prep
31st
Mass – Year Six

AUGUST
1st
Communion Parent Meeting
3rd
Commitment Mass 1st Communion
4th
Commitment Mass 1st Communion
12th
Year Five Camp
14th
Year Five Camp Return
19th
Book Week
21st
SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
23rd
Book Week Author Visit– Lee Fox
31st
1st Communion

SEPTEMBER
1st
1st Communion
Fathers Day
4th
Mass – Year Four
7th
1st Communion
8th
1st Communion
9th
District Athletics
11th
Mass – Prep & Six
Parish Education Board Meeting – 7.30pm (Staffroom)
18th
Art Show
20th
END OF TERM THREE (STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1.30PM)

OCTOBER
7th
TERM FOUR BEGINS
15th
St Vincent de Paul Feast Day
23rd
Parish Education Board Meeting – 7.30pm (Staffroom)
Mass – Year Five
30th
Mass – Year Four

NOVEMBER
5th
Melbourne Cup
6th
Mass – Year Three
13th
Mass – Year Two
20th
Mass – Year One
27th
Mass – Year Prep

DECEMBER
4th
Planning Day – School Closure