Dear Parents,

As a parent of a student attending a Catholic school, you are in a position to significantly influence the Australian Government’s proposed school funding and regulatory reform plans for Australian Schools. Writing a letter to the school’s local federal Member of Parliament can have a significant influence on the eventual decisions that the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Nationals Coalition make about the future of Australian education.

The Australian Government is putting Catholic education under pressure to sign up to its reforms by 30 June 2013. Despite repeated requests, the Government has still not provided modelling showing the proposal’s financial impact on Catholic schools, or how the reforms could effect my ability to make decisions in the interest of our school community’s needs.

It is very rare that this request would be made of you, but we are encouraging all Catholic school parents in Victoria to write to their local federal Member of Parliament to ask questions about the impact of the Australian Government’s proposed funding model for Catholic schools.

A suggested letter had been included in this newsletter.

If you are successful in getting answers to these questions, you will be helping Catholic education make a decision about how our schools could be funded in the future.

If you require any further assistance or advice about this material, please speak to me, or contact the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder, on 03 9267 0228 or via email execdirector@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au.

I thought I would continue with the theme of building resilience since I had some very positive responses from teachers and parents.

**Resiliency Robbers**

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children’s) long–term best interests. If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce children's resilience.

Robber # 1:  *Fight all their battles for them*

Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

Resilience notion # 1: Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.
Thank you

Last Tuesday evening we held our annual Prep Expo for prospective prep parents which was well attended. As part of the evening our School and Sport Captains take the families on a tour of the school answering questions and explaining how we work as they go. The captains were an absolute credit to their parents and the school as they carried out the task. I received so many positive comments from our visitors who expressed just how impressed they were with the confidence, ability and sense of pride shown by the captains. Thank you also to the many teachers who came to welcome and assist our visitors. Once again this shows just what a dedicated and supportive school community we are all part of.

Dear Member of Parliament

I am writing to you for information on how your party’s proposed changes to education funding will affect my child’s school.

Despite the fact that Catholic schools currently receive around 20 per cent less funding than a government school in Victoria we have a great sense of community and sound education outcomes. I would be very concerned if my principal was forced to run our school according to rules set by Canberra rather than respond directly to the needs of our community.

While I welcome the Australian Government’s commitment to fairer funding for students with disability and additional learning needs, I do have three questions about the funding proposals being advertised by the Australian Government:

1. How will school fees be affected?
2. How much of the new funding will be allocated to future increases in teacher and staff salaries?
3. What red tape will the new funding arrangements impose on schools and school systems? Has this been costed by the Australian Government, and what will it cost?

On top of the issue of funding, it is also very important to me that my choice of a distinctively Catholic education continues to be supported by the Australian Government.

I would be very concerned if the government’s plans centralised control of schools in Canberra and restricted the ability of my school principal to build our unique Catholic learning community.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

School Crossings

Concern has been expressed to the school that an increasing number of parents and children are not using the School Crossing in Breed Street or Kay Street. When flags are displayed all pedestrians should use the crossing. If you are crossing the road in Church or Seymour Streets with children please use the intersection crossing/pedestrian refuge.

Children are reminded to always follow the instructions of the crossing supervisor. They must not step onto the crossing/road until the supervisor blows the whistle. Recently there have been a few incidents of drivers travelling through the crossing whilst the supervisor is on the road. The police are aware of this and have been watching the crossings.

Keep smiling and enjoy the week,

Cathy Blackford
Principal

ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS : ST PAUL’S CAMPUS, LAVALLA CATHOLIC

Dear Parent of Grade 6 Students

We would like to let you know that we are currently processing enrolment forms for Year 7, 2014. We will be holding individual Enrolment Interviews on 6 and 7 August 2013. In the next few weeks you will receive a letter outlining the details of these interviews; the time, day, date, where and any information you will need to bring with you. It is anticipated that these interviews will only take up to 15 minutes and will enable us to gather more information on your student. Till we see you at the Enrolment Interviews, keep safe.

Heather Thompson & Bev O’Brien
Transition Team – Lavalla Catholic College

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<tr>
<td>Friday, 7th June</td>
<td>School Closure Staff PD</td>
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<td>Monday, 10th June</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Friday, 28th June</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Meeting</td>
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VALUES PROGRAM

This week we commence our focus on the value of ‘Joy and Optimism’. Martin Seligman suggests that, “The basis of optimism does not lie in positive phrases or images of victory, but in the way you think about causes”. In our classrooms, the children will be learning skills that promote positive habits of mind that support an optimistic approach to life and in turn enhance their full academic, social, emotional and behavioural potential.

Congratulations to the following children who this week received our school Values awards:

- **Charlie Hamilton** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Sophie Booker** for including others
- **Noah Nightingale** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Ruby Storm** for being thoughtful towards others
- **Georgia Hughes** for being a responsible learner

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Each week students from each class are awarded Student of the Week certificates. These children are nominated for the example they have been within the school. The award winners for **Week 7 / Term 2** are:

- **Alana Scholtes**
- **Blair Wight**
- **Pasquale ScottdiPerta**
- **Brandon Plenning**
- **Thomas Vivian**
- **Sophie Melbourne**
- **Ben Ayres**
- **Alvin John**
- **Arwen Williams**
- **Aluel Garang**
- **Josh Hamilton**
- **Tess McDonald**
- **Jake Healey**
- **Madison Webster**
- **Lori Scholtes**
- **Amy Klose**

Friday, 14th June 2013

St Michael’s School Giving Mass 9.30am

Traditionally our whole school comes together for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to reflect on people in our community, whether it be local or overseas, who are less fortunate than ourselves. Again, we are supporting St Vinnies. Over next couple of weeks each classroom will be collecting donations of non-perishable grocery items to present to St Vinnies at the Giving Mass.

Education in Faith News

St Michael’s Parish - Sacrament of Confirmation 2013

A meeting for all Parents of Catholic children in Year 6, who would like their child to celebrate their Confirmation this year, will be held on: **Date:** Wednesday 19th June 2013  **Venue:** St Michael’s School Hall  
**Time:** 7pm, please arrive 10min prior to meeting to allow time for signing in.

A parent or representative from each family **must** attend this meeting.

Important details to note:

- All children wanting to celebrate Confirmation or Eucharist in 2013 should already be enrolled. Please contact this office if your child is not enrolled.
- If you have changed residential address or email address since enrolling last year please contact this office.
- Confirmation Celebration Preference Forms will be mailed to all enrolled families in the next couple of weeks.
- If your child did not celebrate Eucharist at St Michael’s Parish, you must provide a copy of your child’s Reconciliation and Eucharist Certificates.

**Confirmation** (Grade 6) – Saturday 17th August 6pm and Sunday 18th August 9.30am

For further information, please phone 51747703 Office hours: Tue & Wed between 9.30am & 1pm during school terms.
Mathematical Problem

It would be great if you as parents could work the problem with your child or against your child and then compare your results. Have fun thinking mathematically.

Solution for Mathematical Problem in Newsletter No. 15

Replace the stars with digits so the problem is correct.

The height of a river is shown on a marker, with the level at which it floods marked as zero. Due to very heavy rain, the river level changed from -3.8m to 2.7m on the marker. By how many metres had the river level changed?

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"READ, READ, READ, FOR THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU GROW, SO READ, READ, READ"

Reading is a complex process beginning from the role play reader to the advanced reader with a few stages in between. So this week, we will focus on transitional readers; those who are becoming more confident in using a variety of strategies to identify and comprehend words. Transitional readers enjoy challenges and with support they will comment on and criticise texts.

HOW I CAN HELP MY CHILD WITH READING?

- Continue to read to your child if he/she enjoys it
- Make sure you read some of the books your child enjoys so that you can show reactions and pleasure together
- Encourage your child to read to younger brothers and sisters
- Read books that have been made into films or videos and encourage your child to talk about the differences between the books and the video or film
- Ensure your child knows that you value and enjoy reading yourself

Parentingideas

“One of the greatest gifts you can give your children is the consistency of both parents working together”.

Michael Grose parentingideas.com.au

St Michael’s Netball Club - There is a meeting tonight, 4th June at 7.00pm in the school staffroom.
Help support our school!
Remember to collect Earn & Learn Points stickers when you shop at Woolies.
The more we collect, the more our school will benefit. The Woolworths Earn & Learn program ends this Sunday 9th June. Thank you for your support.

SUPPAUT
Latrobe Region Parent/Family Support group for those who have kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

SUPPAUT is a parent-run group that aims to suppaut one another as parents of a child/children with Autism (or asperger’s, PDD or other autism-related conditions). We share our own experiences, problems, joys, successes and suppaut each other with a listening ear and understanding. It is a very informal gathering. All parents/carers/family members are welcome to attend and children/siblings are welcome too. Guest speakers are invited to some meetings.

We meet every LAST THURSDAY of the month - except during School/Public Holidays.

2013 meeting dates:
- 27th June - Noah’s Ark, Lunch Room - Chestnut Avenue Morwell
- 25th July (note: change of venue to Latrobe SDS, Hickox Street Traralgon)
  From 10am – 12pm
  ALL WELCOME TO COME FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT!

For more info or enquiries about the group phone: Louise Varsaci 51750877 or email varsaci@aussiebb.com.au
Join our group on Facebook - SuppAUT Autism support group for families in Latrobe Valley, Victoria
Andy Griffiths is Australia’s most popular children’s writer. He is the author of over 20 books, including nonsense verse, short stories, comic novels and plays. Over the past 15 years Andy’s books have been New York Times bestsellers, won over 50 children’s choice awards, been adapted as a television cartoon series and sold over 5 million copies worldwide.

Andy is best known as the author of the much-loved Just! series and The Day My Mum Went Psycho.

Saturday 15 June 2013
11 am Writers Master class
1.30 pm - Author Talk
Latrobe Performing Arts Centre Traralgon

For further information or bookings, please call Latrobe Performing Arts Box Office on 5176 3539

BLACK & GOLD PARISH SCHOOL’S BALL
Saturday 20th July 2013
7pm start
Premiere Function Centre
$60.00 per head - 3 course meal
Drinks at bar prices
Entertainment by Supersonic
To reserve your tickets, please contact
Fiona Said 0438 748 928
Table of 10 available
Dress Code: Strictly BLACK AND GOLD
Major Prize Raffle to be drawn this night!