Dear Parents,

This term is shaping up to be a very busy but exciting term. We have begun preparation for those who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated on the weekend of August 20th and 21st.

Practice is well under way for our school concert. I am looking forward to this immensely and I can sense the enthusiasm of all the students as they go through their routines. It should be a great performance.

There are a few excursions coming up for some classes. We have initiated Care Monkey for medical information and permission forms, however, until this is completely set up with families we will still use paper permission forms for the next few weeks.

St Gabriel’s fosters partnerships with the wider community which has resulted in some enriching experiences for our students already this term. The Discovery Club for 5/6 classes at Federation University was great initiative. Please read the report in the newsletter. Also Engineers Without Borders from Monash university introduced different types of engineering to our grade 3/4 classes. Fantastic experiences.

The Annual General Meeting for the P and F is approaching (August 9th). Please consider nominating for a position. The P and F is an integral part of our school and is one way that you can be involved.

Don’t forget to follow your class on Twitter to see what is happening at school.

Best wishes,

Roslyn Joyner

REFLECTION
Gracious God, who waits patiently for us, help us to slow down and focus on what is really important. In our busy world, distract us with your presence, so that we may attend to you with a listening heart and mind. We ask this prayer through Jesus, your Son.

Parents & Friends AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the P & F will be held on Tuesday 9th August. Please do consider nominating for a position and joining with the group to make our school a real community minded, collaborative place to be. There are exciting times ahead and your contribution will be greatly valued. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter.

Reminder to Parents that Monday 25th July will be a Student Free Day. All staff will be attending a Professional Learning Day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PARENTS & FRIENDS
TUESDAY—AUGUST 9TH 7PM
NOMINATIONS FORMS AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL OFFICE OR ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER

PREP 2017—ENROL NOW!

Enrolment Applications for Prep 2017 are now being taken. Enrolment forms are available at the school office. New Family interviews from 1st —5th August.
St. Gabriel’s School Parents & Friends
Annual General Meeting Tuesday 9th August 2016 at 7pm

Our Parents and Friends association (P&F) provides an avenue for interaction and communication through social events and regular meetings, we provide significant assistance to the school through fundraising and working bees. We are always looking for new people willing to nominate for positions or just help out on P&F. It’s a fantastic way to get to know new people and to get involved in the school.

The following positions will be declared vacant & nominations called for:

**PRESIDENT**
- Chair monthly meetings.
- Liaise with principal/parish priest on any school matters.
- Develop relationships between all members of school community.

**VICE PRESIDENT**
- Support President where necessary and chair meetings in President’s absence.

**SECRETARY**
- Collect correspondence and distribute to relevant people before next meeting.
- Bring to attention any urgent correspondence.
- Reply to correspondence as necessary.
- Read minutes from previous months meeting.
- Take minutes at monthly meeting- prepare and distribute.

**TREASURER**
- Draw cheques for payment of accounts.
- Check deposits against fundraising totals for bank deposits.
- Preparation and presentation of Financial Reports for monthly P&F meetings.
- Discussion with Executive and Principal in relation to Working Capital and Investment levels.
- Meet with Auditor at year-end. This generally takes one hour per week more or less dependent on Fundraising Events.

**TREASURER (Collect)**
- Collection and banking of all money received.
- Communicate with Treasurer on regular basis.

**SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING**
- Organise social and fundraising events.
- Oversee and coordinate fundraising activities and volunteers.
- Report monthly on status of fundraising activities and money raised.

**UNIFORM SHOP – 1 POSITION**
- Provide school bags, hats and socks for the school community.
- Ensure that appropriate stock is kept in supply and in good condition.
- Source most appropriate suppliers re: price and quality.

**NEW FAMILIES – 1 POSITION**
- Make contact with new families starting at the school during the year and provide general information about morning teas; committee/board meetings and general information about the school; and organise morning tea for Orientation Day and first Monday of school.

P&F committee nomination forms available from the school office.

For more information about nominating for the P&F Committee speak with Principal Roslyn Joyner or current committee members.

www.stgtraralgon.catholic.edu.au
St. Gabriel’s School
PARENTS & FRIENDS
Annual General Meeting 9th AUGUST, 2016

Nomination Form

The following positions will be declared vacant & nominations called for:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING
UNIFORM SHOP – 1 POSITION
NEW FAMILIES – 1 POSITION

PARENTS & FRIENDS
NOMINATIONS FOR 2016/2017

I wish to nominate ..........................................................

for the position of ..........................................................

Nominated by: ..........................................................

Seconded by: ..........................................................

Signature of Nominator:

..........................................................

Signature of Nominee

..........................................................

Signature of Seconder:

..........................................................
Mass Schedule

AN INVITATION TO OUR SCHOOL MASSES

Each week a Mass is celebrated in St. Gabriel’s school Chapel which is prepared and attended by two to three classes of children. Sometimes the “Mass of the Day” is used and sometimes a theme being discussed in the classroom is celebrated. Parents and parishioners are always welcome and encouraged to attend these school Masses and celebrate with the children. It would be wonderful for your children to see that you value and enjoy this aspect of their Catholic education. Masses will be held at 9.30am in the chapel located off the main foyer at St. Gabriel’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Grade Masses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/7</td>
<td>3/4DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>No Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>5/6HASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/8</td>
<td>Yrs 3-6 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/8</td>
<td>Year Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>No Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Whole School Father’s Day Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/9</td>
<td>1/2 Mass (gymnasium)</td>
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</tbody>
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St Michael’s Parish Traralgon 1916-2016
Celebrating 100 years in the Community Calendar of Events

31 JUL Sunday 6:00pm Mass
A Youth Mass celebrating World Youth Day and the youth of our parish and their leaders. This will be followed by a pizza night in the Mary MacKillop Hall.

AUGUST
10 AUG, Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm, SESSION 3 with Fr Elio Capra Venue: St Mary Mackillop Hall at St Michael’s school. Topic: YEAR OF MERCY: FROM SINFUL WANDERERS TO MERCIFUL TRAVELLERS ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.
28 AUG, Sunday 9:30am Cultural Diversity Mass will be followed by a brunch in the hall with foods, music and costumes of the many multicultural background that make up our parish. This will be a great chance for people to share a quick glimpse of their different back grounds and lives. We are looking for a leader from each cultural group to help with this celebration. Please contact Lyn Burn on 0448 313 040 or Fr Bernard through the Parish Office.

SEPTEMBER
14 SEP, Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm, SESSION 4 with Fr Elio Capra Venue: St Mary Mackillop Hall at St Michael’s school. Topic: THE JOY OF LOVE (SYNOD ON THE FAMILY): FROM THE IDEAL FAMILY TO STRUGGLING FAMILIES LIVING TOGETHER IN LOVING, COMPASSIONATE AND FORGIVING WAYS.
29 SEP, Thursday, Time TBA Evening Prayer to celebrate the Feast of St Michael
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23rd</td>
<td>Commitment Masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th</td>
<td><strong>Student Free Day—Professional Learning Day</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUGUST</th>
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</table>
| Monday 1st    | Year Prep—2 Swimming Program begins  
2017 Prep Interviews for New Families commence. Conclude Friday 5th August |
| Wednesday 3rd | Confirmation Workshop 1 |
| Friday 5th    | District Summer Sports |
| Saturday 6th  | Confirmation Letter Masses |
| Tuesday 9th   | **Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting 7pm.**  
Confirmation Retreat |
| Friday 12th   | Year Prep—2 Swimming Program concludes |
| Saturday 13th | Confirmation Pin Masses |
| Monday 15th   | **Science Week**  
Jump Rope for Heart |
| Wednesday 17th| Confirmation Workshop 2 |
| Saturday 20th | Confirmation Masses |
| Tuesday 23rd  | **Book Week** through to 30th August |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1st</td>
<td>Division Summer Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th</td>
<td>Division Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7th</td>
<td><strong>School Concert</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8th</td>
<td><strong>School Concert</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9th</td>
<td>Special Food Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16th</td>
<td>Term 3 concludes 12.30pm</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is in the initial stages of preparation. We have 29 students enrolled to receive this Sacrament on the weekend of August 20th and 21st. As a school we support all Sacraments at the various levels.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the third Sacrament of Initiation, which is part of the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church. The two other Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism and Eucharist. People who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation confirm their Baptism and are ‘sealed’ with the oil of chrism – the same oil that was used when they were Baptised.

The Sacrament also means that candidates want the Holy Spirit to be an important gift in their lives. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a short explanation:

**Understanding** – the **UNDERSTANDING** of how to follow God’s way

Wisdom - **WISDOM** to feel God’s presence beside me

Right Judgement – having **RIGHT JUDGEMENT** to enlighten and guide me

Wonder and Awe - **WONDER AND AWE** to always be awed by the mighty wonders of our God!

Knowledge – the **KNOWLEDGE** to know right from wrong

Reverence – showing **REVERENCE** when worshipping and praying

Courage – the **COURAGE** to stand up and be strong
Congratulations to the following students on achieving a Class Awards in Week 1 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>Jaxon Inglis-Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Harper Pavlic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep HE</td>
<td>Lachlan Gallivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep S</td>
<td>Olivia Kavadias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2F</td>
<td>Mitchell Bassett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2J</td>
<td>Arielle Valladares-Grivari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2P</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2Q</td>
<td>Georgia Kam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>Brody Cargill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2W</td>
<td>Shelby Dalton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Emily Woszczeiko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Elsie Reid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4G</td>
<td>Cooper Domaille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4I</td>
<td>Memphis Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Hunter Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Hayley Stoddart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6H</td>
<td>Ethan Vickers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6HA</td>
<td>Connor Scandrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6P</td>
<td>Jye Schembri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>Gemma Bezzina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Isabel Bowles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a way of promoting our work in CASSE, each week we draw a raffle at assembly. The CASSE award recognises the efforts by a student to help build a caring, safe and supportive school environment. Well done to Anna Passalaqua 3/4D.

As a way of keeping the NED message of: Never give up (focus, persistence) Encourage others (kindness, shared learning) Do your best (diligence, excellence) alive in everything we do and say here at school, we have a weekly raffle. Congratulations to Summah Scott 3/4B.

There was a lot of chatter last Tuesday, it was wonderful to hear. So many happy stories about the holidays and what happened and what was the favourite thing to do. It was also obvious that the children were happy to see each other again. I think they matched the smiles of the parents dropping them off! Welcome back to third term.

The value we are focusing on last week and this, is empathy. Empathy is an attitude of understanding and compassion; it is caring about other people’s ideas and feelings. Treating each other with dignity and kindness shows we can be empathetic.

Empathy is shown when you try to understand other people’s feelings because you realise that everyone has problems and difficulties sometimes.

When we practice empathy we show others that we care about them and how they are feeling. People appreciate when others show care and concern - they feel loved and valued for her they are. When empathy is fostered, people treat each other in a loving and thoughtful manner.

We say to the children “To have a good friend you need to be a good friend.”
On Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} July Year 5/6 HAS went to Federation University and participated in the Discovery Club which is organised by students of Fed Uni who are aspiring to be teachers. The children got to do a Science class, Art class, ICT programming session and a Nursing session. At the end of the day the children got to wear gowns and hats and do a mock graduation.

Something I liked at Federation University was the Science session. We got to do an experiment about density. We poured water into a cup, then added dishing washing liquid and it sank to the bottom, we then added oil and it floated on top of the water. We then got to add little objects to our density solution to see what layers they would sink too. It was fun. We got to have a tour of the university and had lunch at the amphitheatre.

By Dempsey Blair.
Year 3/4s became 'Engineers Without Borders'

On Friday 15th July, five representatives from Monash University’s ‘Engineers Without Boarders’ came to St Gabriel’s to teach the 3/4 students about the important role that Engineers have in our lives.

The students in 3/4 learnt about the different types of Engineers. An engineer is a person who helps construct different types of machines, buildings, architecture, structures. Other engineers control an engine aircraft or ship. Some different types of engineers include mechanical, electrical, electronics, civil, chemical, systems and mineral engineers.

There was one very exciting activity that all 3/4s participated in and would love to tell you about. Firstly, we formed groups of five and were given one piece of paper and a pencil to plan and design a prosthetic limb. Each group was given $50 to collect the materials required to make their prosthetic legs. All team members worked co-operatively together and used their engineering skills and knowledge to produce a prosthetic leg.

Our prosthetic legs needed to be strong to hold and support our body weight. The smallest person in each group tested the legs in a race to determine the effectiveness of our engineering skills. In the race, all of our prosthetic legs were very supportive and lasted the distance.

It was a fantastic experience for all the students in Year 3/4. It was really interesting and we all learnt a lot about the different types of engineering and how they impact on our daily lives.

Written By Taylah Healey and Ally McClements
36th IN THE STATE!
Congratulations to Campbell Booth for his amazing effort at the State Cross Country Championships held last Thursday. Campbell travelled down to Bundoora Park on the 14th of July to compete in the State Finals. With a finishing time of 7.33, Campbell placed 36th out of the 90 competitors. This is an incredible achievement for Campbell and St Gabriel’s Primary School. We are all very proud! WELL DONE!

WINTER SPORTS
Last Tuesday 12th July, the Divisional Winter Sports were held in Traralgon. The A grade girls netball team and the soccer team competed on the day. The girls’ netball remained un-defeated all morning until their second last game. Finishing off with a win in their last game and placing second overall for the competition by two points, the girls need to be congratulated on their team’s efforts! The soccer team had a great day on the 12th July, finishing in first place and winning a spot through to the Gippsland Region Winter Sport Finals. The Regionals were held in Sale on Wednesday 20th July.

The team showcased great skills and fantastic sportsmanship on the day. Due to a draw in first place, the final competition winners were decided by the total amount of goals scored on the day. The boys and girls ended up in second place, by a close two goals. A big THANK YOU to Mr. Redi, Miss Albanese and Alison and Michael Colantuono for their coaching throughout the series.

That concludes our Winter Sports for 2016. A huge congratulations needs to go out to all the St Gabriel’s staff and senior students for their fabulous efforts throughout training and game days. THANK YOU to all the parents and friends for their continued support throughout the Winter Sports and other sporting events happening throughout the school!
BOOK WEEK—AUSTRALIA: STORY COUNTRY

Term 3 is a very exciting time in Library as we read all the shortlisted books that have been judged as the best stories written in 2015 and then we anxiously await to find out the winners during BOOK WEEK!

The Children’s Book Council Awards (CBCA) began after WWII in 1945 to encourage Australian authors to produce and so expose out children to the best literature possible. Every year books are submitted to a panel of judges who decide which books will be shortlisted and then winners are chosen as a highlight of Book Week.

During library sessions we discuss why we think the judges have chosen these particular books and what is outstanding about them. We then wait for the decision of the judges to see if we agree because we all have our personal favourites! During BOOK WEEK we have our annual BOOK Fair which the children enjoy very much. This is also a way of increasing our library book collection, as we receive a percentage of our sales in books.

I look forward to the support of the St Gabriel’s school community with our BOOK FAIR as we have had over the past years.

Date for the BOOK FAIR are Tuesday August 23rd until Tuesday August 30. BOOK FAIR WILL BE CLOSED MONDAYS. There will be no dress up day this year as we do this every alternate year.

WE ARE ON TWITTER

Request to follow your child’s classroom or department.

Simply follow one of the handles below and see what exciting learning is happening in the classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Department</th>
<th>St.GabrielsPrep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2QW</td>
<td>St.Gabriels1/2QW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2FP</td>
<td>St.Gabriels1/2FP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2JR</td>
<td>St.Gabriels1/2JR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 Department</td>
<td>St.Gabriels3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6AR</td>
<td>St.Gabriels5/6AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6HAS</td>
<td>St.Gabriels5/6HAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6HP</td>
<td>St.Gabriels5/6HP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not sure how to use Twitter?

Download the twitter app via the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play Store (Android), sign up for a free account, then search the above names to start following what’s happening in the classroom.

Feel free to pop into school and talk to the teachers if you need Twitter support.
Tolerance: a vital ingredient for your child’s success

Kids who accept differences in others are setting themselves up for success in the world of diversity that they will enter.

Want your child to be successful way past the confines of the school gate?
Then you need to make sure your child is tolerant of individual differences and accepting of children and adults who look and act differently to them.

There’s no doubt that success in today’s world depends on the ability to understand, appreciate and work with others. The child who is open to differences is likely to have more opportunities in school, in business and in life in general.

Schools are diverse places
Walk into any school ground in Australia and you’ll witness diversity firsthand. You’re likely to see children from many different cultural, racial and family backgrounds. You’ll also see kids with different needs and diverse ways of expressing themselves. Some kids will wear their hearts on their sleeves, while others will be taciturn and quiet. Tolerant kids are accepting of these differences.

They make friends with children and young people who may look and act differently to them.

Intolerance breeds bullying
Intolerance, or prejudice, is at the heart of a great deal of the bullying that occurs among children and young people. Kids who look and act differently or who are more isolated often experience bullying for no apparent reason other than the fact that they are different. Whole-hearted acceptance and even appreciation. Tolerance: a vital ingredient for your child’s success of differences is a preventative bullying measure that we can all support.

Tolerance starts at home
Kids learn attitudes such as tolerance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents. While adolescents are strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their attitudes to other people. In short, if you want your child to be accepting of differences – whether they are racial, cultural, behavioural or in sexual orientation – then make tolerance a family trait.

Here’s how:
Help your child feel accepted, respected, and valued. When your child feels good about himself, he is more able to treat others respectfully.

Model acceptance. Kids learn what they live so make sure you welcome differences in others, and be sensitive to cultural or racial stereotypes. It also helps on a practical level to discuss prejudice and stereotypes when they occur in the media.

Challenge prejudice or narrow-minded views. Sometimes kids, knowingly or unknowingly, can say the cruellest things about others. As a parent respectfully remind your child or young person about the impact that a narrow view can have on him or her own behaviour as well as on those it may be directed towards. Intolerance of diversity is an attitude that parents should make a stand against.

Answer kids’ questions about differences honestly and respectfully. Teach your kids that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.

Respect individual differences within your own family. Your ability to accept your children’s differing abilities, interests and styles will go a long way towards establishing an attitude of tolerance in the children themselves. By valuing the uniqueness of each member of your family you are teaching your kids to value the strengths in others, no matter how diverse. Modern Australia is such a wonderful culturally-rich place. This diversity is part of its magic. One way to make sure our children fully appreciate this richness is to fully embrace tolerance in everything we do.
St. Michael’s Parish Mum’s & Dad’s Group
A great place to meet other mums and have some fun with the kids.
Come and enjoy fellowship, friendship and food! We meet every Wednesday during school terms at St. Michael’s, Mary Mackillop Hall.
Time 10am – 12noon.
Any inquiries to Jen Hanratty 51761178 or Lou Varsaci 0414540296
All welcome!

St. Gabriel’s School Concert
St Gabriel’s School Concert is to be held in Term 3 on the 7th and 8th of September.
More information will be released as preparations begin. Please keep these dates free! It’s promising to be a great event!!

Deepest sympathy to the Nicholls family (Robbie 3/4I and Hollie 1/2J) on the passing of their Father and Grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time.

Deepest sympathy to the Haney family (Mrs. Haney 5/6HA) on the passing of their Mother and Grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time.

Bookclub Issue 5 has been distributed to all classes. Orders are due back Friday 25th July.

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES
NEW SATURDAY B4K CLUB
Technics 5yrs+
Robotics 9yrs+

TRARALGON LIBRARY
Saturday, 20 Aug – 10 Sept (4 weeks)
Technics - $40, Robotics - $60
New FUN builds each week.
Full detail & Enrol online bricks4kidz.com.au/gippsland

BUILD WITH DAD/Mentor
Fun for 5 – 95yos
5yrs+ 6:30 – 8pm
$15 per kit for Dad + up to 2 kids
This workshop puts kids and adults on the same playing field.
Both the model builds and games are challenging enough for the older kids and adults, but still simple enough that the younger children can play as well.
So if you’re looking for new ideas to Build creative Bonds with your kids, you’ll nail it with this workshop!

TRARALGON LIBRARY Fri, 2nd Sept
Full detail & Enrol online bricks4kidz.com.au/gippsland
OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

My dear friends,

This weekend we commence a special program – a Parish Stewardship Program which recognises that “Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church.”

Our Parish School
St Gabriel’s Primary School is an integral part of our parish community and the mission of the parish. We have a strong commitment to Catholic education – providing our children with a strong faith as well as academic education.

As a school family why should I be involved?
By choosing to send your children to our school you have made the decision to be a part of our parish community. We welcome that commitment. This Program will reaffirm the core values of what it means to be a member of our parish community and has the potential to enhance our faith.

What is the Program about?
Over the course of the next few weeks we will ask ourselves what it means to be a part of our parish community. With the assistance of a range of events and materials – speakers at Mass, banners, bulletins, brochures and the main event of the Program, the Parish Information Meeting - we will reflect on and discuss the three key areas that identify our parish as a special community of faith:

We are a parish that celebrates faith. We know the importance of gathering as a community to celebrate the Eucharist at Mass – it is the foundation of who we are as a Catholic community. But importantly, we don’t merely attend Mass, we celebrate our faith. As Pope Francis says, “........it is a beautiful thing to do.”

We are a parish that values engagement. We recognise the importance of living our faith through involvement in parish groups and ministries. You are encouraged to be involved either through our parish school or in the other opportunities listed in the Program Time & Talent sheet.

We are a parish that supports generously. We firmly believe in the need to plan and budget for our personal financial commitment to our parish – giving us the resources to sustain our parish today and to grow and respond to Pope Francis’ call to Mission.

We encourage your active involvement in the Program – read the materials, listen to our speakers at Mass each week and discuss the issues with your family and friends. We also invite you to attend the key meeting of the Program – the Parish Information Meeting – see details below.

Let us all use this Program as a wonderful opportunity to grow our special community of faith.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Bernard Buckley
Parish Priest
GOD GIVES IT ALL AND THEN CALLS US TO SHARE

Everything we have and all we are is a gift from God. Life itself is God’s gift to us. Our family, our friends, the time we have and our talents have been given to us. Our ability to use these gifts to earn an income is also God’s gift.

Our Stewardship challenge is to develop and then share our gifts with others - no strings attached. We share these gifts out of our love for God and in gratitude to him.

PARISH INFORMATION MEETING

When: Wednesday 3 August 2016
Where: Mary McKillop Centre
Why: - Discuss our achievement
      - Hear about our plans
      - Learn more about Stewardship
Who: ALL SCHOOL PARENTS ARE INVITED!
RSVP: e-mail to sec@smpt.org.au

“The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach”

Pope Francis
Evangeli Gaudium 28

PARISHES - THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CHURCH