Dear Families,

We wish to welcome back all students and staff to the beginning of term two. We trust that the holiday break and Easter were special times for all families.

During the holidays we celebrated Easter, a very special and significant time of the Church year. The events of Holy Week, Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Good Friday help each of us to develop a deeper insight into the events of Easter. Easter of course, is the central event in our belief as Christians, and indeed the celebration of the Eucharist is focused upon the reality of Easter. Our faith gives us the ability to “see” the power of the risen Lord around us, without his physical presence. Without faith we can become like Thomas who did not believe until he could see!

We can “see” Jesus in all that we do and say; all we have to do is believe!

Catholic Education Week

On the 1st May through to 8th May, we will see the commencement of Catholic Education Week for the Diocese of Sale. This year’s Catholic Education Week theme is: ‘Moving with the Spirit.’ As Catholic schools, we recognise and proclaim that we are dependent on God and God’s gifts to us. At the same time, precisely because we are given those gifts, we are challenged to use them to develop each and every one to their full humanity and to contribute to the task of building God’s Kingdom on Earth. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and share things that are special about our schools and ethos with families, parish and the wider community. Teachers are currently planning activities which will enable children in each class to recognise and celebrate Catholic Education at St Gabriel’s!

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all parents who helped to make our Easter Raffle a success. A big thank you to Paola & Kayla Massaro, Anne Answerth, Carmela Jean, Kaye Templeton and their band of helpers who gave up their time to organize and prepare for the Easter Raffle. There were 55 baskets created by Paola and her band of helpers. We thank the families of St. Gabriel’s for their donations of Easter goods and the purchasing of raffle tickets. Again, this was a very successful fundraiser. Our first 5 raffle winners were:
1. Kyah Mackie
2. K. Del Piccolo
3. Kyle Whateley
4. Zane Pyle
5. D. O’Neil

Building Works

During the holidays Kingbuilt were able to remove all remaining asbestos from the school, thus leaving the school completely free of all asbestos. Internal works continue in the classroom areas and during the course of the term sections of the roof will be replaced as part of the project. Expected completion date remains on target: first week of term three.

All relocated classes (preps and four 3&4 grades) have settled very well and we are pleased with the progress they are making. A big well done to the children and the excellent efforts of all staff involved.

ENROLMENTS AT ST. GABRIEL’S FOR PREP 2016

On Wednesday 22nd April, 29th April & 20th May from 9am—1pm we will be holding our school Open Day for any prospective families who may be considering enrolling at St Gabriel’s. If you know of any parent who may be interested in coming to have a look at our school please pass on this information.

Existing families who have children to begin school for 2016 can start the enrolment process by collecting enrolment forms from the school office.
Working Bee

As advertised in Prattle and Facts (P&F Newsletter) last term we have a working bee scheduled for this Sunday 19th April starting at 8:30am. We really need your assistance on this day so jobs can be completed in minimum time!

Jobs:

- Spreading mulch under our new playground and existing play areas.
- Cleaning of garden beds areas.
- General clean up and removal of rubbish (inclusive of cob web removal around buildings).

Tools required:

- Shovels/rakes
- Wheelbarrows
- Gloves

If you can assist, even for half an hour, please contact the school on 71745515 or Andrew Dibble on 0411789170.

We really need your help for this working bee!

ANZAC Day

Next Saturday is Anzac Day and, as in previous years, our school captains will take place in the march and lay a wreath at the 11.00am service. Any other student who wishes to join in the march is most welcome and can meet with us (in school uniform). See Miss Laszczyk for further information.

School Fees

A reminder to all families that school fees must be paid on a regular basis and/or by a negotiated plan through the office. Fees are compulsory for all families. If you are experiencing any difficulty with fees then an appointment must be arranged with the school to discuss the matter. Parents who renege or fall behind on fee payments, place pressure on the school to maintain programs and services. Failure to pay fees, or make contact to discuss fee difficulties, is likely to result in intervention by our debt recovery agency and/or legal action. Please do not allow the situation to get to this stage!

Uniform

As we begin Term 2 children will need to consider moving towards winter uniform. At this stage there is no set date for the change-over as the weather is still very mild; so summer uniform is still quite acceptable.

A reminder that chains, necklaces, dangling ear rings, etc. are not permitted. All hair ties, ribbons etc. must be in the school colours.

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GIRLS WINTER
- Grey tunic or grey slacks
- Pale blue long-sleeved polo shirt with school logo
- Maroon woollen v-necked jumper with school logo
- Black shoes
- Grey tights or socks.

BOYS WINTER
- Grey trousers
- Pale blue long-sleeved polo shirt with school logo
- Maroon woollen school v-necked jumper with school logo
- Black leather shoes (not runners)
- Grey socks

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Reflection

TOGETHER WE CAN

I dreamed a dream I stood in a studio
and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child’s mind and they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher, the tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.

Day by day, the teacher toiled with touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured by her side and polished and smoothed it o’er.
And when at last their tasks were done they were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had moulded into a child could be neither sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed if they had worked alone,
For behind the parents stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

Anon.
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 9.15am in the chapel located off the main foyer at St. Gabriel’s.

MASSES FOR TERM 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Grade Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30/4</td>
<td>1/2Q/J/N</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/5</td>
<td>1/2P/F/KL</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/5</td>
<td>5/6R/A/W</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/5</td>
<td>5/6K/H</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>All Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>3/4 Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/6</td>
<td>Junior School (P-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/6</td>
<td>Whole School Mass to farewell Mr Mulqueen</td>
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St.Michael’s Parish Mum’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, Pam Pinel 0409168516 or Lou Varsaci 0414540296

Thank you St. Gabriel’s!

We would like to THANK YOU all for supporting Project Compassion in 2015. We had an enthusiastic fund raising effort this year which saw many students undertaking fund raising ideas in their classrooms to support those less fortunate than us.

Our final tally was $2,229.05

The money raised will go to supporting programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish sustainable food sources for life.

For more information please visit: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
LENT- HOLY WEEK- EASTER

Our students were excited to return to school sharing stories of their holiday and Easter experiences. The sharing of Easter eggs is just one facet of the experience of Easter.

During class time the students have examined the events of Holy Week and the first Easter Sunday, and the rituals and symbols we use to celebrate Jesus risen and alive. Students have participated in a variety of Easter prayer experiences that have enriched and consolidated their learning.

Below is the Leon’s retell of the story of Good Friday and encapsulates the events, feelings and Leon’s understandings of this important event.

GOOD FRIDAY

As retold by Leon (Year 3/4B)

Pontius Pilate was one of the people who believed in Jesus even though the crowd didn’t. He had a plan and it was to get the worst criminal he had and release Jesus. Then Pilate said, “I am going to bring two criminals before you and let you, my people choose.” He brought out Barabbas the worst criminal he had. He was a murderer and a thief. The crowd supported the release of Barabbas shouting, “Barabbas, Barabbas.” Pilate knew his plan failed and that the son of God would die. And with that he washed his hands, not because they were dirty but because he had given up.

Jesus and Simon made it to the hill and one of the two criminals crucified with Jesus said, “King of Jews, save me and save you.” Jesus realised the criminal was greedy and unworthy of being saved but he still prayed for him. Thick painful nails were hammered into Jesus’ skin and his faithful mother Mary was hurt to see this happen to her beloved son. Mary broke down in tears just looking at the horrible sight. The soldiers put a sign under his legs to say he was the king of Jews. Every drop of blood from Jesus’ body was gone. A rich man gave his family’s tomb to Mary, mother of Jesus. Jesus’ lifeless body was covered with white cloth and that is when Jesus saved us.

A few years later, Peter died. Because he thought he was unworthy to die the same way Jesus did, he asked that his cross be placed upside down.

ANZAC BADGES

Anzac Badges will be available for sale at school. Children can bring along $2 to purchase a badge. Year 6 students will be calling into each grade for students to purchase an ANZAC badge.

ANZAC DAY

100 YEAR COMMEMORATIONS

The Traralgon RSL Sub Branch will be conducting services to commemorate ANZAC Day on Saturday 25th, 2015. Dawn Service will be held at 6am and the Commemoration Service will be held at 11.00am. Both services will be held at the Cenotaph located in Kay Street opposite the old Post Office.
Dear Parents,

St Gabriel’s school is delighted to be offering a new program for parents this term – the Seasons for Growth® Parent Program: Supporting your child following separation or divorce.

St Gabriel’s school has offered the highly successful Seasons for Growth® program for children and young people. For many years, parents whose children have participated in the Seasons for Growth® Young People’s Program have been asking ‘Is there a program that can help parents, too’?

The Seasons for Growth® Parent Program has been developed to meet this need. The program provides an opportunity for you to reflect on the experience of separation and divorce from your child’s perspective, and to explore ideas and strategies that might help you support your child/ren through the changes happening in your family.

The Seasons for Growth® Parent Program: Supporting your child following separation or divorce is a small group program for 6-12 parents. It will be held over 2 x 2 hour sessions and is for parents only. It will be facilitated by Jo Quinn and Sharon Anderson.

Dates: 7th and 14th of May.
Venue: Multi-purpose room at St Gabriel’s school.
Time: 7-9pm.
There is no cost involved.

For more information or to express your interest taking part in the Seasons for Growth® Parent Program, please contact Jo Quinn on 51745515.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 19th April</strong></td>
<td>Working Bee commencing at 8.30. Details on page 2.</td>
<td><strong>Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May</strong></td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 22nd April</strong></td>
<td>Open morning for new families 9am—1pm</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 26th May</strong></td>
<td>National Sorry Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 22nd April</strong></td>
<td>Confirmation Parent Meeting</td>
<td><strong>Friday 29th May</strong></td>
<td>Italian Day Celebrations</td>
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<td>Open morning for new families 9am—1pm</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 2nd June</strong></td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Excursion</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 25th April</strong></td>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td><strong>Thursday 4th June</strong></td>
<td>Division Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 29th April</strong></td>
<td>Year 3/4 Camp</td>
<td><strong>Monday 8th June</strong></td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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<td>Open morning for new families 9am—1pm</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 9th June</strong></td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY. Spirituality PD for staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 1st May</strong></td>
<td>Catholic Education Week starts</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 10th June</strong></td>
<td>District Winter Sports</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 6 visit Lavalla</td>
<td><strong>Monday 15th June</strong></td>
<td>Enrolment Interviews for Existing Families commence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 5th May</strong></td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 16th June</strong></td>
<td>Divisional Winter Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(5&amp;6 students only)</strong></td>
<td>Proposed Mother’s Day Mass</td>
<td><strong>Thursday 18th June</strong></td>
<td>Regional Cross Country</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 23rd June</strong></td>
<td>PTC Interviews</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 6th May</strong></td>
<td>Year 5/6 Camp</td>
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<td>Life Ed Van returns</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 7th May</strong></td>
<td>Seasons Parent Program 7pm</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 24th June</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 8th May</strong></td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 25th June</strong></td>
<td>Special Food Day—Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 13th May</strong></td>
<td>NAPLAN TESTING for Year 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 14th May</strong></td>
<td>Seasons Parent Program 7pm</td>
<td><strong>Friday 26th June</strong></td>
<td>Conclusion of Term 2 at 12.30</td>
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<td><strong>TEDDY BEARS PICNIC FOR YEAR PREP</strong> Confirmation Retreat for Year 6</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 20th May</strong></td>
<td>Confirmation Workshop 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 20th May</strong></td>
<td>Open morning for new families 9am—1pm</td>
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Piano—Keyboard—Guitar Tuition
If you child would like to have Piano, Keyboard or Guitar lesson in 2015, lesson available during school time. Please contact Peter Winter on 5174 8237 or Mobile 0407 563 634 for further details.

DRAMA PLAY
Drama Play registrations for term 2 at the VRI Hall are now open.
Drama Play is a creative drama program in Traralgon after school from next Monday with Dan Clancey and Eloisa Tripodi. It is a development and exploration of the creative side of performance, students will be doing lots of different group work and small team approach to performing. Confidence building and creative development is definitely a part of the program.
It is $125 for the 10 weeks of term 2 which breaks down to $12.50 per session per child.

LUNCH ORDERS
Reminder that lunch orders are no longer supplied by Liddiard Road Milk Bar.
Lunches are now supplied by The Lunch order Ladies separate from Liddidiard Road Milk Bar.

MOTHER’S/SPECIAL PERSON DAY STALL
Tuesday 5th May & Friday 8th May 2015
Just an early reminder about our Mother’s Day stall next term.
This year the Year 5/6’s will be on camp from Wednesday 6th May until Friday 8th May. Therefore, they will be attending the stall on Tuesday 5th May. All other students will attend the stall on Friday 8th May. We would therefore like gifts donated much earlier than in previous years to allow the Year 5/6 children the opportunity to choose from a variety of gifts.
We rely on the generosity of families to donate gifts to sell at the stall and are asking that each family donate TWO gifts to the value of about $5 each. It would be greatly appreciated if all gifts could be wrapped in CLEAR cellophane and left at the office by no later than the morning of Monday 4th May (the earlier the better) to allow the stall co-ordinators enough time to sort through the gifts and set up the stall.
Some families may choose to donate $10 rather than purchasing two gifts. This has been a successful option for families in the last couple of years. The Stall co-ordinators purchase suitable gifts for sale at the stall with the money donated. Should you choose this option, could you please ensure the money is given to the class teacher or the office by no later than the morning of Wednesday 29th April to allow time to purchase and wrap gifts.
When purchasing gifts for the stall it is important to think about what a child might be interested in purchasing for their Mum or special person, not necessarily what we might think is a good gift. Some gift ideas are: chocolates, candles, mugs, books, photo frames, scarves, ornaments, plants, baking items, gardening items, items that mention Best Mum, soaps and other nice smelling things, etc.
Should any family or business be interested in donating items for the raffle it would be greatly appreciated.
At the beginning of Term 2 we will be issuing further information in regards to the stall.

Bookclub order are due Wednesday 29th April.