Dear Parents and Friends of St Paul's,

Confirmation – Next Wednesday June 5th our Year Six children head to Don Bosco’s in Brunswick for their Confirmation Retreat as part of their preparation for the Sacrament. The following Wednesday June 12th, Archbishop Bishop Denis Hart will be attending the school and meeting our candidates. The celebration is approaching fast. Please keep the children in your prayers.

Important news from Mr Stephen Elder, Director of Catholic Education Melbourne – There is a great amount of information from the Federal Government about the new funding of schools. Despite numerous requests from Mr Elder to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education to answer questions in regards to how the new plan will impact Catholic Education, we get no reply. Mr Elder is asking parents of children to write a letter to their local member, ours being Mr Kelvin Thompson, to respond to these questions. Last year I attended a meeting with Mr Thompson, where all the Catholic Principals in the electorate asked for clarification; none was forthcoming. The main areas of concern are how the change will affect our specialist funding programs such as Literacy funding and LOTE ($60000) per year and the retention of family fees to meet recurrent costs (instead of individual student fees). All we are asking is for clarification. For the first time in eighteen years as a Principal, I have no idea of the funding the school is to receive for the following year. The deadline for the Catholic System to sign off on the Government’s plan is June 30th but as stated there is not enough detail in the funding model of Catholic Schools for our system to confidently agree – we have fought long and hard to obtain the gains we have made in Government funding and the subsequent improvement that it has brought – all we want is a fair share. You will find the suggested letter on the last page of the newsletter. As a parent who has children in Catholic Schools, I will be writing to Mr Thompson as well!

“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 affect 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 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. 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.”

Walk to School Day Friday May 24th – Well I have never had an easier car park duty as I had last Friday. So many children and parents took the opportunity to walk to school that morning (and afternoon) exercise. Thanks again to Mrs Pat for organising and the Dimech family for the lovely fruit.

Interschool Sport – This week the seniors will play Antonine Catholic School. The Football and T-ball team will play at Allard Park 174A Donald Street Brunswick East Melways Reference: 30 A5 and the Netball will held at the school, 130 Harding Street, East Coburg 3058. The forecast is poor and so if need be we will postpone the sports. This year we have plenty of time for a make-up day.

Cats first game ever under lights at home Saturday night. Gold Coast much better side this year. Nervous again. Good luck to your side this week.
Loving God,
you have marked us with the seal of your Holy Spirit and have sent us out as disciples of your Son.
Help us to be temples of the Spirit and let us all give glory to your name.
We ask this through Jesus, your Son
Amen

Craft Club
Congratulations to the beginner crocheters who have learnt to crochet the granny squares by themselves.
The women are now busy crocheting squares which when joined together will create a ‘one of a kind’ blanket which we intend to raffle.

RockBody Fitness
BoxFit

BoxFit is a new and exciting group fitness class that will be held in the multipurpose room on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am—10.15. BoxFit is a mixture of boxing and circuit class and is guaranteed to kick start your morning and burn off all that unwanted weight.

For enquiries contact
Raluca : 0414 144 971
Email: ralucalazarescu20@gmail.com

FREE study for overweight young people looking for help

The Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is conducting a randomised controlled trial of an online weight management program designed for overweight adolescents aged 12 to 17 years.

We want to find a fun and interactive way to help adolescents learn about healthy food choices and physical activity. Around 30% of all 12 to 17 year old Australians are overweight and spaces in clinical services are limited. Staying Fit is an interactive online program designed to help adolescents learn about healthy lifestyle choices. We would like to find out if it is more effective than the information that is already available to Australian adolescents.

We are looking for 550 overweight adolescents aged 12 - 17 to help us test two ways of providing health information. Those who take part in the study will be randomly assigned to either the Staying Fit group or the Usual Care group.

- Both groups will receive information for young people about healthy food choices, physical activity, stress and coping with eating disorders, and a list of useful websites to visit. The Staying Fit group will also spend about an hour each week (for 12 weeks) working through a fun, interactive, online session and they will be provided with a pedometer and a walking program.

- If we find that the Staying Fit program is more helpful, then at the end of the study the Usual Care group will also get access to the Staying Fit program.

- All participants are asked to complete questionnaires and have their height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured at baseline, 3, 6 and 12 months follow-ups. Parents are also invited to complete questionnaires, height and weight measurements. These measurements can be taken at the Royal Children’s hospital or during home visits (not at schools) and all individual information is confidential.

Recruitment has commenced and we are looking for overweight young people aged between 12 and 17.
If you would like to know more, contact the Staying Fit Project Coordinator, Karly Cini on (03) 9345 6954 or email: stayingfit@mcri.edu.au web: www.rch.org.au/cah/stayingfit
IT'S TIME FOR AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA! MAY 2013

Host: ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL  Tel: 9354 8970
Date: WED. 5th JUNE  RSVP: TUES. 4th JUNE
Where: MULTIPURPOSE HALL @ 9:00 am

COME ALONG AND MAKE YOUR CUP COUNT
BIGGESTMORNINGTEA.COM.AU

Cancer Council
30th May 2013

Dear Mr Thompson,

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 four questions about the funding proposals being advertised by the Australian Government:

How will school fees be affected?
How much of the new funding will be allocated to future increases in teacher and staff salaries?
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,

Concerned Parent of St Paul's Primary School