Gospel - Lk 13:1-9
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, “Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir,” the man replied “leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”

Mrs Clara Privitera
Religious Education Leader

**NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As you may be aware, there has recently been a measles outbreak in the Brunswick area of Melbourne.

In light of this, I am seeking your co-operation in ensuring we have a record of your child’s immunisation status on file. This will ensure the school can respond quickly should a member of the school community contract a vaccine-preventable disease. In the event of a disease outbreak immunisation status certificates help us quickly identify the immunisation status of each child and implement the advice received from the Victorian Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services, which may include sending your child home until the risk of infection has passed.

All primary schools are required to request an immunisation status certificate for each child prior to enrolment and to keep a copy of this certificate on record. **Even if your child has not received any vaccinations, it is still expected that parents/carers/guardians provide a certificate.**

The most commonly provided immunisation status certificate is an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Register (ACIR). You can get a copy of your child’s Immunisation History Statement: through Medicare online accounts or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app by requesting a statement to be posted to you in the mail.

Email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
Telephone ACIR on 1800 653 809
by visiting a local Medicare service centre

Please be aware that your child may be excluded from attending school for up to 14 days if there is an outbreak in the school community and the school does not have evidence showing your child has received two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. Further information on primary school immunisation requirements can be found at <www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children-adolescents/primary-school-immunisation-requirements>
Reliable information on measles symptoms and measles vaccine is available at [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

If you have any concerns, please contact the school and make an appointment to see me.

Next Week is Catholic Education Week and traditionally the week of our open day. This day will take place on Tuesday the 8th March and tours will run at 9.30am and 6.00pm. Please encourage anyone that you know that might be interested in having a look at our wonderful school to be there on the day. Enrolments for 2017 will close at the end of this term and interviews will take place early in term 2. It is anticipated that the ‘More Learning’ will run during Terms 3 and 4.

Over the next two weeks, our Middle’s who will, in their home groups, be experiencing the ‘Zoo Snooze’. Our seniors rate this camp as the best ever experience and our teachers have concurred. Our children are very excited about this adventure and are looking forward to it with great anticipation.

Our Commissioning/beginning of the year mass will be organised as soon as we meet our new Parish Administrator, Fr Peter Hoang. Please make him very welcome when you see him around. Apologies to our young leaders that have not yet officially received their badges. Our senior leaders attended the Young Leaders Day this week and we are looking forward to a presentation from them at our next assembly.

Homework is club is commencing next term on Wednesdays, more information will included in newsletter.

We are currently organising our Sports Day which will have a focus on track and field events. We just need to confirm the date which will be early term 2 and a venue that ticks as many boxes as possible in regard to facilities and location.

We ask that you keep in your prayers the Testa family in Year One, who lost their beloved mother and grandmother recently, under tragic circumstances. Your support, condolences and prayers at this very difficult time are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Marcy De Nardis

LIST OF EVENTS TERM 1 2016

**MARCH 2016**

- **Tue 8th** - Open Day 9.30am and 6.00pm
- **Mon 14th** - Labour Day - Public Holiday
- **Tue 15th** - Book Fair begins
- **Tue 22nd** - Book Fair ends
- **Thur 24th** - Holy Thursday
  - Last Day Term 1
  - 12.00pm finish
- **Casual clothes day, Gold coin donation to Children's First Foundation**

**April**

- **Mon 11th** - 1st day back Term 2

**CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING**

- **Preps** - Tuesday 22nd March @ 9.15am
- **Year 1** - Thursday 17th March @ 2.30pm
- **Year 2** - Wednesday 16th March @ 9.15am
- **Year 3/4** - Tuesday 15th March @ 2.30pm
- **Year 5** - Tuesday 22nd March @ 2.30pm
- **Year 6** - Monday 21st March @ 2.30pm

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Book Fair**

Our first Scholastic Book Fair for 2016 begins on the 15th March, after school in the library. The support of the school community for this event is extremely important as every book purchased allows our school to acquire books for the library. The Fair runs until the 22nd March and on that day sales are only before school.

**Book Club**

Scholastic have changed how Book Club is organized and ordered. Now instead of being Wombat, Star, Lucky, Arrow, there is only ONE catalogue given to each child.

We will continue to run a Book Club as a whole school in terms 2 and 4. If you wish to order at other times throughout the year, new catalogues will available each month in the library and the school office. Follow the instructions to order and pay online and your books will be delivered to the school. While the online ordering option is preferable, orders can still be placed at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mary Turville
NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Families,

Once a month, our School Advisory Board (SAB) would like to keep our school community up to date with the topics that are addressed in Board meetings. Stay tuned to this section for your monthly update. Below is a rundown of the first meeting for 2016:

**SAB Meeting February 2016**

On Tuesday 23rd February, STM held its Annual General Meeting for the School Advisory Board. The topics covered included:

- reviewing the school events of the year prior
- fundraising efforts to date by P&F
- reports for the year prior from the chair, principal, canteen, after school care and parents and friends
- upcoming school review
- anticipating the arrival of our new Parish Administrator

This year, there are no changes to the board members, so it is once again our pleasure to introduce to you, the members of the 2016 SAB.

**The 2016 School Advisory Board**

From Left to Right

Drew Hildebrandt (President), Chris Bye, Marcy DeNardis (Principal), Anneliese Gaulton (Deputy Principal), Elena Giurfo, Maria Fedele, Chris Deery (Vice Secretary), Rosanna Velevski, Justin Wong (Secretary) & Ricky Mazzone (Vice President)

We look forward to another successful year ahead working in partnership with our beautiful school community. The SAB can be reached at the following address: sab@stmhadfield.catholic.edu.au.

Board meetings are generally held every third Tuesday of the month with the exception of holidays and some school events. Further information around the role of the SAB can also be found on our school website under the ‘School Community’ tab (or at this link: [http://www.stmhadfield.catholic.edu.au/school-community/36/p/st-thomas-more-school-advisory-board/](http://www.stmhadfield.catholic.edu.au/school-community/36/p/st-thomas-more-school-advisory-board/))
Casual Clothes Day For Easter Raffle Donations

Friday 11th March 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Term 1 is a short one, and Easter is fast approaching!

As we do every year in Term 1, we have a casual clothes day and kindly ask for donations for our Easter Raffle.

We will be having our casual clothes day next Friday 11th March 2016.

Instead of a gold coin donation, for this casual clothes day children are kindly asked to bring an item for our Easter Hampers.

The hampers that are created from these items will raffled on Monday 21st March 2016.

Instead of just Easter chocolates, we would like to open up the donations this year and include all Easter goodies, such as:

Chocolates, Books, Cakes, Biscuits, and of course Baskets for wrapping.

We had a fantastic response to this casual day last year which resulted in us being able to raffle off over 50 fabulous hampers!

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

We do ask that all items be new, in packaging from manufacturer and expiry on food be 3 months or more, and of course NO NUTS in any products i.e. Kinder Surprise products and some of the Lindt Easter items contain nuts - so please aware when selecting your donations.

Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser

Please bring in your order forms and money to the front office for these delicious varieties of hot cross buns, closing date next Wednesday 9th March 2016 (more forms are in the front office).

Delivery is on Wednesday 23rd March 2016.

Remember you can freeze your hot cross buns (except the Nutella as it may separate).

PNF Meeting

We will be meeting at Quella Pizzeria (98 Kent Rd, Pascoe Vale) next Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.30pm.

Please RSVP if you are coming to pnf@stmhadfield.catholic.edu.au.

All welcome. No commitment required.

Easter Raffle

A booklet of 20 Tickets will be given to the eldest child in each family today.

Tickets are $1 each.

Please return sold and any unsold tickets to school by Tuesday 15th March 2016.

Booklets are also available from the Front Office.

Raffle will be drawn on Monday 21st March 2016.

We are hoping to have up to 50 Hampers to be raffled!
Dear Families,

This week our goal is to focus on exploring our environment. We have organised many activities such as the following: Gardening club, Garden Scavenger hunt and finding insects in our garden.

Reminders: During Term 1 and 4 children are required to wear a hat when playing outside. Oshclub has a “No hat No play” policy. A broad spectrum sunscreen is provided to all children attending. It is the responsibility of the families to provide their own for children who are allergic to general sunscreen. If children don’t provide a hat they will miss out on fun activities.

Recipe of last week was called Weet-Bix Slice:
Due to children’s requests we have included it on our newsletter:

**Ingredients:**

- 4 Weet-Bix, crushed
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cocoa
- 70g butter/margarine
- 1/4 cup of water

**Method**

1. Preheat oven to 180C (160C fan-forced). Melt butter and mix into crushed Weet-Bix.
2. Add remaining ingredients and stir to combine.
3. Line a square cake tin with baking paper. Press Weet-Bix mixture into the base. Bake for 15 minutes.
4. To make icing, sift icing sugar into a bowl. Add milk gradually, stirring, until you have a smooth, spreadable consistency. Pour icing over slice in tin. Spread to cover completely. Allow to set.

Slices.

Parent Information:
OSH program phone: 0401-442-393.
Coordinator: Luisa Coco.
Assistant: Sonya Badding and David De Anglis
OSH Club Head Office: 03 85649000
All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
Homework Club

Our aim is to assist students in completing their weekly homework tasks.

- **Homework Club will commence** Term 2, Week 1  
  **Wednesday 13th of April**

- Sessions will run on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30pm-4.30pm  
  in the school library

- Homework Club will run each **Wednesday** for 11 weeks of the term

- $10 per session  
  Payment for the term is required at commencement.

Please fill out the ‘Homework Club Student Information Form’ found in the front office.

Sara Belante  
Sarabelante@gmail.com
DROWNINGS
Learn to swim

AIRPORT WEST SWIMMING ACADEMY

Address: 20-22 Howes St. Airport West, 3042
Phone: 93383092 or 0413180046

“The wounds and scars you can’t see are the hardest one’s to heal”

Saving Precious Lives

Learning to swim is not just a summer event; one of the many important aspects of parenting or caring is to waterproof your child. From bouncy, splashing, memorable bath times, babies learn that water offers play opportunities. By waterproofing your child at an early stage, you can deter the degree of probability of drowning (We teach babies from 3 months).

The recent statistics on drowning’s in our community has prompted us to step up on our campaign of ‘Learn to swim, It’s safer than a ten foot fence’

Learn To Swim

This journey like all schooling has been built on a principle of understanding, patience, perseverance, joy and love. This principle of caring will help all students to get over the obstacles of coordination, flexibility, endurance, technique and fear.

Don’t quit swimming if your child is not making progress, try taking a short break if you must or even a total change of environment but Don’t Quit.

AustSwim And Swim Australia Qualified

Allow our qualified instructors to take your children on a journey of discovery, helping them to experience how amazing they can be in water, teaching them the rules of water safety with bubbles of fun.

Come and join us on this safe, fun, wet and wonderful water experience, come and experience over 35 years of professional teaching by qualified teachers.

‘Learn to swim, it’s safer then a ten foot fence’, we have been on this campaign in Australia since 1989.

Remember drowning is a reality.

Learning to Swimming Is Not A Choice, It’s A Necessity.

Staying safe: To keep your child safe while playing with water, make sure you always supervise your baby, toddler, learners and all swimmers. Accidents can happen in a second - and can be silent - so if the phone rings, or someone’s at the door, pick your child up, clear the now unsupervised pool and take them with you. Buckets and containers containing water can also be a drowning risk. Short cautious stories that describe the properties and danger of water can add to your child’s growing knowledge of water safety.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to introduce the importance of learning to swim.

FOR MORE INFORMATION text or call us on 0413180046/ 93383092

WHAT WILL BE THE DROWNING STATISTIC FOR 2015/16?
Make a difference DON’T BE A STATISTIC. Enroll now - Learn to swim.

Kind Regards,
Mel and Mary Anne De Cotta
Directors of AWSA
CHILDREN (0-4 YEARS) DROWNING STATISTICS

Victoria Statistics
Source: Life Saving Victoria

FATAL DROWNING INCIDENTS

ONE THIRD OF FATAL DROWNING INCIDENTS OF CHILDREN (0-4 YEARS) OCCUR IN HOME POOLS.

On average 4 Victorian children (aged 0-4 years) die due to drowning each year in Victoria (average of the past 10 years 2003-2013).
In all fatal pool drowning incidents the child was not actively supervised at the time.

34% HOME POOLS

40 VICTORIAN CHILDREN

On average each year 40 Victorian children (aged 0-4 years) are hospitalised due to a drowning incident but survive.

65% OCCUR IN THE HOME, THE MAJORITY OF NON-FATAL DROWNING INCIDENTS OF CHILDREN (0-4 YEARS) OCCUR IN THE HOME WITH MANY IN HOME POOLS.

20 children

Children (aged 0-4 years) drowned in 2013/14.

85% 85% of cases the toddler fell into the water.

70% Males accounted for 70% of the drowning deaths in this age group.

National Drowning Statistics
Source: Royal Life Saving

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools accounted for 70% (14 out of 20) of toddler drowning deaths in 2013/14, more than 4.5 times that of any other location.

Children aged 0-4 years continue to be the age group that accounts for the largest number of drowning deaths in swimming pools in Australia.
There were 14 drowning deaths in 2013/14 or 36% of all drowning deaths (all ages) in swimming pools.

36% Did you know that portable pools (also known as paddling pools, wading pools or inflatable pools) that can contain more than 330mm (13in) of water are also required by laws in most states and territories to be fenced?

THE TOP 5 FAULTS/NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUES WITH POOL SAFETY BARRIERS ARE:

Source: Life Saving Victoria

• Gates and doors that are no longer self closing
• Screws and bolts are loose
• Fencing is too high
• Fencing gaps are too wide
• Fencing is not self closing
“What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification. Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids. But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and can be confused with teasing.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion. The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction?
I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering. Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.

Regards,

Michael Grose
Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better.

More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don't develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 3 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
Help children ask for what they want. It means they don't throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Sharing
Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Preschool and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

3. Holding a conversation
Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.

Here’s to a year of great parenting and happy kids!
Take care,

Michael Grose

© Michael Grose Presentations 2016. All Rights Reserved World Wide
Michael Grose Presentations Pty Ltd Parentingideas PO Box 167 Balnarring Vic 3926 Australia
Free call: 1800 004 484 Phone: +61 3 5983 1798 Email: office@parentingideas.com.au
www.parentingideas.com.au