Dear Parents,


Thank you very much to the children for their reverent participation and commitment, their parents for all their support, Bishop Mark, Father Ashkar, our Religious Education Leader, Mrs Jenny Foley, and all our staff who took on different tasks to ensure that this was such a memorable time.

Happy Feast Day to all of St Mary’s Community. Saturday is the Feast of the Assumption, our Feast Day, and we are looking forward to our school celebrations on Friday. As members of St Mary’s community you are invited to join us! We will be celebrating with Mass at 9.15am and the Andrew Chinn Concert with the whole school at 2.00pm, so we hope to see your there. The rest of the day will be taken up with music workshops with Andrew, a variety of other activities and of course our pizza lunch. Cake will be served at recess time.

Congratulations to our Students of the Week for last week:

PB: Evie L, Reeve C  PF: Sienna K
1/2R: Archie P  1/2F: Riley C
1/2U: Alexander McC  1/2H: Tommy P/Alizah J
3/4M: Billy W  3/4C: Jessica R
3/4T: Ella M  3/4N: Reagen A
5/6B: Connor S  5/6L: Mason D
5/6F: Peri B  5/6S: Brodie L

With my prayers and best wishes for the coming week,

Mrs Lynne O’Meara
Principal

You certainly haven’t been horsing around this week! Well done!
**This Week's Happenings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Five</th>
<th>Monday, 10th August</th>
<th>3.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 11th August</td>
<td>Book Fair Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 13th August</td>
<td>Parliament Incursion 5/6L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, 14th August</td>
<td>NO TUCKSHOP – SPECIAL FOOD DAY - PIZZA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Mass - Feast Day – Andrew Chin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.40am</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next Week's Happenings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Six</th>
<th>Monday, 17th August</th>
<th>3.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 18th August</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 21st August</td>
<td>Book Fair Finishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, 21st August</td>
<td>Ten Pin Bowling Excursion Grade 5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**School Closure Days**
Monday, 2nd November (Day before Cup Day) – Reporting

---

**Feast of the Assumption**

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Saviour. May the prayers of this woman clothed with the sun bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of incompletion with the presence of her child.
Uniforms

All St. Mary’s students are required to wear the full correct school uniform. We believe that the wearing of uniforms promotes the children’s pride in their school and self-discipline. Uniform items can be purchased or made at little cost. The uniform shop at St. Mary’s carries all uniform items, including school and library bags. There is a small amount of second hand uniforms available in the shop.

Children are expected to have a school bag with the St Mary’s School logo. Please ensure that your children bring their correct school bag.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Winter Uniform</th>
<th>Boys’ Winter Uniform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy tunic or tailored pants</td>
<td>Navy Trousers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length of dresses and tunics should not be above the knee</strong> (no jeans, jean style or cargo pants)</td>
<td>(no jeans, jean style or cargo pants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy socks or tights</td>
<td>Navy socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black polished shoes</td>
<td>Black polished shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(no sneakers/runners)</td>
<td>(no sneakers/runners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy gloves and scarf (optional)</td>
<td>Navy gloves and scarf (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Winter Sports Uniform</th>
<th>Boys’ Winter Sports Uniform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy track suit pants</td>
<td>Navy track suit pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy unisex sports shorts or navy skort.</td>
<td>Navy unisex sports shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White St. Mary’s sports socks or plain white socks and runners</td>
<td>White St. Mary’s sports socks or plain white socks and runners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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HEADBANDS FOR SALE

- 3 STYLES IN SCHOOL COLOUR
- SAMPLES AND ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.
- $5 EACH.

---

HEADBAND ORDER FORM:

Name ___________________________________________ Class ___________

Style A. (select quantity) ___ Style B. (select quantity) ___ Style C. (select quantity) ___ $ 5.00 each

Amount Enclosed $ ________ (Exact money only/Cash Only/No change given)
SAFETY ON THE ROUNDBOOTH!

Please do not “overtake” another car on the roundabout. It is not safe for the children and it is unfair to the teacher on duty who is trying their best to keep the cars moving.

Please be patient!

CLEGG ROAD PARKING WARNING:

Parking Inspectors will be on Clegg Road next week at school drop off between 8.15am – 9.00am and pick – up from 3.00pm – 3.30pm

It is illegal to park on the nature strip and we have been warned that infringement notices will be issued.

ST MARY’S MASS TIMES MOUNT EVELYN

Saturday 6.00 pm & Sunday 10.30am & 5.00 pm

SCHOOL FEES

All families have been sent a statement for 2015 and fee agreement forms. If you have not received yours please check your child’s bag or contact the office.

Forms must be return signed by the fee payer/s

St Mary’s BSB/ACCOUNT Details

St Marys Primary School
BSB 083-347
Account Number 676054930

Please clearly state your eldest child name and surname when processing your payment

Split Firewood Sale

For $120.00 delivered to your door a generous 1 cubic metre of split hardwood firewood and 2 large bags of kindling ready for your fireplace or slow combustion heater.

Contact Andrew on 5964 3291 or 0427 887 329

ST MARY’S NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new website... The newsletter and other items are uploaded every week for your convenience. (Weekly newsletters will no longer be emailed)

Also including this week, Uniform Order Form

Tuckshop Menu & Car Park Rules

www.smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

NO TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK
LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair coming soon!

From August 12\textsuperscript{th} – 18\textsuperscript{th} we will be holding a Book Fair. Viewing days will be on Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} and Friday 14\textsuperscript{th} with the children given the opportunity to create a ‘wish list’. Families/parents can visit for viewing both days:

8:30 – 9:00 am and 3:15 – 3:45.

Selling of books will only be on Monday 17\textsuperscript{th} from 8:15am until 3:15pm and Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} from 8:15 until 7:00pm. This will coincide with a family event for Reading Hour at 6:00pm. Any queries please visit Janine Meades in the library.

UNIFORM SHOP - NEW OPENING TIMES

Opening hours
Tuesday Afternoon 3.00pm - 3.30pm & Thursday Morning 8.30am - 9.00am

Order forms available at the office. Payment of cash or cheque MUST be included with your order.

St. Mary’s Coffee Morning

Every Monday Morning at the Church
All welcome…. Meet new friends, bring someone along......
An informal friendly get together........

SCHOOL PRODUCTION Grades 3-6 Only

Cast for production will be announced this week and published in next week’s newsletter. Rehearsals will be held Thursday afternoons.

Please make sure your child is attending school these days.

Full Dress Rehearsal Dates
Monday 7\textsuperscript{th} September & Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} September

Production Dates
Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} September
12.00pm and 6.00pm & Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} September
12.00pm and 6.00pm

Further updates will be available in the newsletter

SEE TICKET ORDER FORM
Grades 3-6 only

NO TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK
Ticket Order Form

MYTH BUSTERS

Family Name: ____________________________  
Contact Number: ________________________  
Eldest Childs Year: ______________________  
Class: ________________________________

MATINEE 12.00pm @ $6.00 per seat
Number of tickets required at $6.00 per seat – No limit on matinee tickets.  
Check with your classroom teacher to see which night you are on….

- Wednesday 9th Sept (Cast 1) __________
- Thursday 10th Sept (Cast 2) __________

EVENING 6.00pm @ $10.00 per seat
Number tickets required at $10.00 per seat – Maximum 2 tickets per family  
Check with your classroom teacher to see which night you are on…

- Wednesday 9th Sept (Cast 1) __________  
- Thursday 10th Sept (Cast 2) __________

Maximum 2 Tickets

Maximum 2 tickets for evening only (toddlers can sit on parents lap…..)  
Should extra tickets become available they will be advertised in the newsletter.

- Total Number of Evening Tickets __________ at $10.00 each $ __________
- Total Number of Matinee Tickets __________ at $  6.00 each $ __________

Total Amount Payable on Collection: (Do not send any money) $_________

ORDER FORMS DUE IN BY FRIDAY 21st AUGUST
(PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH THIS ORDER.  CASH PAYMENTS ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON PICKUP OF TICKETS)  
NB* No Credit Card facility available/No Cheques

Notification in the newsletter when tickets are ready to be picked up from office

OFFICE USE ONLY

Name: ________________________________  
Grade: __________________________

Number of Matinee _____  
Number of Evening _____  
Total Number of Tickets ______

Total Cost $ __________

Wednesday 12 / 6 and/or Thursday 12 / 6 – Seat Allocation Numbers
12.00pm _________________________________________________________
6.00pm _________________________________________________________
St Mary’s Soccer Team  
Futsal Indoor Soccer

Please let us know if your child is interested in playing for a St Mary’s Indoor Soccer Team at Futsal Oz, Hereford Road Mt Evelyn.

Season starts this Friday 31st July.

We are registering a team initially in Under 8’s (players can be eight years old or younger).

Coach: Paul Dorian  
Manager: Ilona Dorian (0408 558 630)

Cost per game (first season): $25 per team
Games played on Friday evening at 5:00 pm or 5:35 pm
Age: 8 years old and younger

- Other teams/age groups can be registered, we will need managers and coaches
- Uniforms will be arranged, costs to be determined

If your child is interested, please come along to Futsal Oz, 19 – 23 Hereford Road Mt. Evelyn, this Wednesday 29th July at 3:30 (after school) until 4:30 pm for an initial training session. Please wear runners (or non-marking shoes – not school shoes) and bring a drink bottle.

Please call Ilona Dorian for any further information or questions – 0408 558 630

Feast Day Celebrations - You're Invited!

Andrew Chinn Concert: On Friday 14th August, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew’s songs, such as “These Hands”, “Rainbow” and “An African Blessing” are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. Parents/parishioners are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. There is no charge for adults. The concert will take place in the hall at 2.05pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Andrew Chinn: Biography

- Was a teacher for 20 years in Catholic schools in Sydney, taught all grades from kindergarten to Year 6 (was a kindergarten teacher for two years)
- Song writing since 1993
- His music is used in schools across Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada
- His best-known songs are These Hands, Together As One, Rainbow, In the Beginning, Shine Among Them, An African Blessing and Gotta Sing Gotta Pray.
- Has his own website: www.butterflymusic.com.au, where you can listen to some songs, watch some video clips, and find out a bit more about his music.
Religious Education News

Sunday, 9 Aug 2015: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Gospel - John 6:41-51

A reading from the gospel according to John.

*I am the living bread come down from heaven.*

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’ ‘Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph’ they said. ‘We know his father and mother. How can he now say, “I have come down from heaven”? ’

Jesus said in reply, ‘Stop complaining to each other.

‘No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

They will all be taught by God, and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Confirmation**

Confirmation took place last Friday. Congratulations to the following children who received the sacrament of Confirmation:


**Confirmation Prayer**

Spirit of God, grant me:

The gift of wisdom
To see the world through your eyes,

The gift of counsel
To make difficult decisions,

The gifts of knowledge and understanding
To use my mind to know you and to love you,

The gift of fortitude
To have the courage to live in the faith despite the difficulties and disappointments,

The gift of piety
To be able to express my special love and commitment to you,

And the right kind of awesome fear
That makes me pause to wonder and revere God’s Love.

*Amen*

**No Class Masses this week due to Mass on Friday for our Feast Day**

**Feast Day** This Friday 14th August, we celebrate our Feast Day, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. We are very lucky to have been invited by Andrew Chinn to visit our school on this day. Andrew worked as a classroom teacher in Catholic Primary Schools in Sydney, Australia for nearly twenty years before moving into his full time music ministry.

Andrew has visited nearly 1000 Catholic primary schools, performing in 2000 concerts across Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada sharing his music and his faith with children, teachers and parents.


All the children will be a part of whole school Mass at 9.15 a.m where Andrew Chinn will lead the singing and music. *All parents are invited.* This will be followed by grade level workshops with Andrew Chinn in the hall, Mary related activities in classrooms, and a whole school concert at 2.05pm. You are also invited to come along to this.
A reminder that there is a St Mary’s parent Facebook group (St Marys Mt Evelyn - parents). This group is run by the parents for the parents not by the school. It’s very handy if you need to ask for lost spelling words or find out which days uniform shop is open if you forget!

FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS

Each year the St Mary’s P & F Committee runs a food stall at the Wandin-Silvan Field Days. The Field Days are an opportunity for Horticultural and Farm Machinery exhibitors to showcase their products and services to the local community. This year the event will be held Friday October 16th and Saturday October 17th.

We are seeking volunteers to help us run our food tent. You might be taking food orders, flipping burgers on the bbq or making up orders. It’s a fun day out for the volunteers and a great way to meet some other parents from the school. We also need help loading and unloading our equipment at the start and end of the event.

Please consider putting your name down and helping out the school with this fantastic fundraiser. Just fill in the slip below and return to the office. We will contact you with more information the week prior to the event. Thank you! 😊

Name: __________________________________________________________

Eldest Child’s name: ______________________ __________ Class: __________

Phone: H______________________________ Mob: ______________________________

*Please circle shift availability

Wednesday (14th Oct): Pack and Load truck after school, transport to Field Day venue, unload

Thursday (15th Oct): Food Preparation (at school, approx. 9:00am – 12:00pm)
09:30am – 12:00pm 12:00pm – 02:30pm

Friday (16th Oct): 07:15am – 10:30am 09:00am – 12:00pm
11:30am – 02:30pm 02:30pm – 06:00pm

Saturday (17th Oct): 07:15am – 10:30am 09:00am – 12:00pm
11:30am – 02:30pm 02:30pm – 04:00pm
04:00pm – 06:00pm approx (pack up)
Dear Sir/Madam/Business Owner

On the 15th of June 2015, our beloved Father Kyoshi Andrew Roberts was told he had a large tumour on the left hand side of his brain. After a successful surgery removing majority of the tumour, he now faces further treatment involving radiation and chemotherapy. In honour of Kyoshi’s bravery and many others faced with the long journey of Brain Cancer, we will be holding a Push-up-a-thon CureBrainCancer Fundraiser on the 30th of August 2015.

In order to make this CureBrainCancer Fundraiser a success, we will be relying on the generosity of our friends, family, the community coming together or anyone who has been affected by Brain Cancer and wanting to make a difference. We are seeking for donations/services for our silent auctions and raffles. Donations from businesses will be thanked and any advertising will be welcomed on the day, or you may wish to hold a stall. 100% of profits will be donated to curebraincancer.

Did you know? Brain cancer kills more children than any other disease in Australia. It kills more people under 40 in Australia than any other cancer. Yet very little is known about brain cancer, what causes it or how to treat it. Brain cancer survival rates are low and have hardly changed for 30 years, despite significant increases of survival for Australians diagnosed with other types of cancer, such as prostate and breast cancer. Treatment is challenging because it affects our most vital organ. Brain cancer costs more per person than any other cancer, yet only receives a small fraction of federal government cancer research funding. Only two in ten people diagnosed with brain cancer will survive for at least five years. The mission is to increase five year survival to 50% within 10 years. Together we will succeed.

For more information visit curebraincancer.org.au

Please, if you are able to or know someone who can help out or donate, contact Sensei Amy Gardam, Katharine Anderson or Jennifer Mifsud. His three loving daughters who are praying for a miracle.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sensei Amy Gardam 0403 898 896 sensei@edgemartialarts.com.au
Katharine Anderson 0417 111 270 kat.ben@bigpond.com
Jennifer Mifsud 0403 040 754 rjmifsud@bigpond.com

‘Fight for a Cure’ Beanie Order Form

100% of profits go to the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.

Name: ____________________________________________ Phone: _______________________
Address: __________________________________________ Eldest Childs Grade: _____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Amount Included $  

Please include correct money with your order. NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN.

Contact Katharine Anderson ph:0417111270 or at kat.ben@bigpond.com for any further details or questions.
LEARNING MUSIC IMPROVES RESULTS IN OTHER SUBJECTS eg Mathematics

YOUR CHILD DESERVES THIS CHANCE!!
Enter NOW in ................
PIANO ON KEYBOARD LESSONS
16 50 per half hour lesson

ONE FREE LESSON
IF YOU ENROL NOW
Phone 9761 9058

Start collecting for your school now

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program gives Schools and Early Learning Centres around Australia the chance to earn new educational resources.

Make a difference for your local school
• Simply shop at Woolworths and you will receive one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent.*
• Stick the Woolworths Sticker onto the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet inside.
• Once it’s complete, pop it into a Collection Box at your school or local store. You can download more Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheets from our website woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Last year more than 14,500 schools and Early Learning Centres benefited from the program, providing supplies in classrooms, libraries, music rooms, gymnasiums and science labs.

It’s easy to earn valuable rewards to benefit your local school; so start collecting your Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers today.
Go to woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn for more information, terms and conditions and answers to frequently asked questions.
AFTER SCHOOL BASKET BALL

Are you interested in playing After School Basketball in Season 2 – 2015?

Name_________________________________________ Age _______ Grade _______

Are you currently playing After School Basketball? Yes No (please circle)

Have you played competition basketball before? Yes No (please circle)

Parents Name__________________________________________________________

Home No________________________ Mobile___________________________

Email Address__________________________________________________________

Are you able to help as: Coach Yes/No Team Manager Yes/No

NOTE: If you are currently playing After School Basketball and do not want to continue in 2015, could you please return your washed basketball singlet top to the office in a bag, clearly marked with your name and class on it. You will then be eligible for your refund.

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to call Liz Rhodes on 0414 761 088

St Mary’s Basketball Singlet Tops

Children playing in the after school basketball competition are to wear navy blue shorts (the shorts you wear for PE at school are perfect), runners and the St Mary’s Basketball Singlet Top. Tops are $25.00 to hire, however, once your child returns the top back to school they will receive a $20.00 refund. Payment can be made by cash or cheque. Cheques need to be made out to “St Mary’s Parents and Friends Committee”

Could all payments for the singlet tops and this form please be given to the office ASAP, in an envelope, clearly marked “Basketball Singlet Top Money”. If you still have your top from last season, you DO NOT need to pay any more money, just hang onto the one you have and use that again. If you have any queries about the tops please call Liz Rhodes 0414 761 088

St Mary’s Basketball Singlet Tops

Players name: ___________________________ Year Level: __________ Class:___________

Mum’s name: _________________ Dad’s name: ____________________________

Mum’s mobile: ___________________ Dad’s mobile: ________________________

Amount enclosed: ____________________________

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Office use:

Top number given: _________ Amount enclosed: __________ Cash/Cheque

Date top given: _______ Date top returned: _______ Date refund of $20.00_________
WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS

RAVAE

Acupuncture
Chinese Herbal Medicine
Cosmetic Acupuncture
Chinese Remedial Massage (Tui Na)
Cupping, Moxibustion & Gua Sha
Dietary & Exercise Therapy

6 Hereford Rd, Mt Evelyn
www.ravae.com.au | 9736 2888

The Sweat Playground
Fitness Studio
113 Beresford Rd Lilydale 3140 | Phone: 9736 8443

KIDS FITNESS CLASSES

Encouraging kids to move and have fun. Our kids classes are $7 per session and go for 45min.

MONDAY 10.30am Boogie Bears
For the little ones
10.30AM Boogie Bears—a fun class to get pre-school age kids moving & dancing.

Tuesday Fit Club
4pm (9-14yrs) 4.45pm (9-14yrs)
Fit Club will teach your kids the benefit of being active, while learning different exercises they will also be playing fun games.

Wednesday & Friday Body Beats
4pm (9-14yrs) 4.45pm (9-14yrs)
Body Beats is a fun dance class that teaches coordination and gets their cheeks rosy and their favourite songs.

No booking required for any TSP class, eats & kids.
www.thesweatplayground.com

WAGZ CAFE

The cafe where your pet is just as important as you are.
Come in and enjoy Homemade Country Cooking at its finest.
Something for everyone!

WAGZ CAFE has joined the team at Top of the Town Pet Supplies & Shannon’s Dog Grooming so pop in to redeem this coupon and receive 50c off every cup of coffee purchased.
*One cup per coupon.
3 York Road, Mt Evelyn (next to Subway) - 9736 1677

Care for your career
Always wanted to work in Aged Care, Disability or Home & Community Care?

We have Courses happening in your area! Boronia, Box Hill, Lilydale, Ringwood.

employease
Find out more about your Government Funded opportunity by calling Chanley on 9781 2158

RECENT ADVERTISEMENTS

RELAX
With the promise that all your holiday plans are in the safest possible hands.

Call Me Olivia Glover 0433 877 086

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

Your personal holiday specialist right here in Bentford Court. olivia.glover@travelcounsellors.com.au

With us it’s personal

Your next holiday is on the way!
Do you let your kids amaze you?

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?”

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks; rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

If the idea of promoting real independence in kids enthuses you then join me at ParentingIdeas Club where week in and week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.

Michael Grose