Dear Parents/Carers,

**Protest Action Thursday 14 February**

I write to advise you that a limited program will be running in our school this Thursday 14 February. I apologise for the inconvenience this will cause you and the temporary disruption to students’ education.

Staff will be participating in a day of protest against the State Government. You may be aware that the wages outcome in government schools is directly linked to that of all staff in Catholic education. The Agreements governing wages and conditions for both government and Catholic staff expired at the end of 2011 and there has been no pay rise in either sector for over twelve months. In more than a year of negotiations, the State Government has not moved at all from its original position, and, unless this is resolved, no progress can be made in the Catholic sector.

The arrangements for St Agatha’s school on Thursday will be that there will be no normal classes. Parents are asked to keep their child at home or make other arrangements for their child on this day. A small number of staff will be at school on the day and will be available to supervise any child where other arrangements are not possible.

It is regrettable that the school year has to start with this but I hope that you understand the importance of this issue to staff at our school. I trust that you will support the stand that they are taking to achieve a fair outcome for Victoria’s teachers and support staff.

Yours sincerely,

Noela Hyams
Principal