Welcome back. Term four will again be a busy time for schools and students as we progress to complete another year of school life. Also this year the State election due on Saturday 27 November will be an important event for Catholic schools in relation to future state government funding.

In the coming weeks we will be continuing discussions with the Government on our request for state funding transparently linked to 25% of the cost of education in a government school. We understand the proposal is under active consideration and we are hopeful that we will have more news soon. I will keep you informed on progress towards our goal. The Liberal National Coalition remains committed to funding Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in government schools.

Meetings with State MPs and Candidates
While the outcome on our funding request remains uncertain we will need your help to raise the issue with your school community and with MPs and candidates. If you have not yet arranged to meet with your local MP or candidates I would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. We need every candidate and MP to be aware of our request and understand its importance to every Catholic school in Victoria.

Draft letters are still available on CEVN for your use to contact MPs and candidates along with our state political leaders. A suggested newsletter insert is included below.

Please contact me with any feedback that you may have or receive from any contact with MPs or candidates.

More information and material will be released through CEVN soon and I will make you aware of the information when it is available.

Electoral Overview
If the Brumby Government loses 11 seats it will lose its current majority in the Legislative Assembly. The Liberal National Coalition must to win 13 seats to gain government in its own right.

The 13 seats most likely to change from Labor to Liberal, based on the margin at the 2006 election, are listed below. The swing required for these seats to change to the Liberal Party is shown in brackets:

1. Mount Waverley (0.32%)                      8. Prahran (3.56%)
2. Gembrook (0.72%)                           9. Burwood (3.75%)
3. Forest Hill (0.78%)                        10. Ripon (4.36%)
4. Mitcham (1.98%)                            11. Bendigo East (5.4%)
5. South Barwon (2.29%)                       12. Bentleigh (6.33%)
6. Frankston (3.23%)                          13. Eltham (6.49%)
7. Mordialloc (3.55%)
Based on the strength of the vote for the Australian Greens Party at the federal election and their votes at the 2006 state election a number of seats currently held by the Labor Government may also be vulnerable to the Greens. These include the seats of Melbourne, 2.02%; Brunswick, 3.64%; Richmond, 3.65% and Northcote, 8.53%.

Although it is anticipated that any swing will be away from Labor to the Liberal National Coalition, the Coalition must also defend the 7 seats with a margin over Labor of less than 3%. These seats are:

1. Bayswater, Liberal (2.9%)
2. Evelyn, Liberal (2.79%)
3. Narracan, Liberal (2.66%)
4. Morwell, National (2.13%)
5. Hastings, Liberal (1%)
6. Kilsyth, Liberal (0.36%)
7. Ferntree Gully, Liberal (0.05%)

If Labor is able to win any of these seats it will significantly increase the likelihood that they will be returned to government.

If you have any other ideas or suggestions in relation to our activities on funding please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for all your efforts to help secure our funding goal at the coming State election.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ryan
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF SALE

**Suggested Newsletter Insert**

**State Election**

The State Election will be held on Saturday 27 November. Funding for Catholic schools will again be an issue for all political parties. We are seeking to link state funding to Catholic schools to 25% of the cost of education in a government school. Victoria is the only state in Australia that does not link government funding to Catholic schools in this way. It is estimated this would mean around $60 million extra in state government funding to Catholic schools each year and ensure our government funding keeps pace with rising costs. To ensure this issue gets serious attention we will need the help of all parents to raise the issue with MPs and candidates from all parties. Please ask your local MPs and candidates:

Will you support state funding to Catholic schools linked to 25% of the cost of education in government schools?