Dear Parents,
Welcome to the beginning of the 2015 school year at St Mary’s. It’s great to be back!! I hope that you had a peaceful and happy time with your family over Christmas and the New Year.

Welcome to Our New Families
We especially welcome all the new students and families to St Mary’s School. We hope that you quickly feel a strong sense of belonging. Our Prep children have settled in extremely well and the only tears seen were from some of the parents! The school year has commenced very smoothly thanks to the good preparation of all staff and the co-operation of the students. We are currently in the midst of 2 SWELL weeks (Student Wellbeing) with many class and school activities relating to student goals, school rules and protocols, SEL competencies and values education.

Welcome to New Staff
Welcome to our new Staff members, Stephanie Prince - Grade 1/2, Hannah Nevins - Grade 3/4 and Mary Francis, Project Worker for The Greater City of Dandenong Healthy Together Project (more news to soon follow on this exciting new project that St Mary’s is now involved in).
We welcome back Yvette Silva returning to St Mary’s after a number of years on maternity leave. Yvette is working one day a week (on a Friday) job sharing with Amerall Blom in Grade 3/4. We also welcome Ganesh Ilango, our School Counsellor who works every Tuesday along with Frances Thurgood who will work every Thursday. We look forward to them being a part of the St Mary’s School Community. Please see the attached 2015 Staff List for full details of staff placements this year.

Beginning of the Year School Mass
The Beginning of the Year School Mass will be held this Sunday 8th February at 10:30am at St Mary’s Church. All families are expected to attend this special Mass to mark the beginning of our school year. During the Mass all Staff will take part in the Ceremony of Commissioning. The Grade 6 students will also be commissioned as student leaders of our school and will receive their leadership hat. All classes will present their 2015 class prayer cloth. Please come along to celebrate the beginning of the school year and to ask for God’s blessings for all our families, the School and Parish.

Family Get Togethers
All grade levels have organised Community Get Togethers over the next few weeks. The purpose of each gathering is to enable parents, students and teachers to meet and get to know each other better in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Drinks and snacks will be provided. The first Community Get Together is this Thursday 5th February from 3.30pm to 5.00pm for the Grade 5/6 Community in the 5/6 Community area. Please let your child’s teacher know if you are able to attend.

Parents, feel free to contact us should you need any further information.

Principal’s Message

Birthdays:
February
4th Angel
4th Omnidu
6th Prabhnoor

Active After School Community Sports Program starts Mon 9th February
Every Monday: Year Prep, 1, 2
Every Wednesday: Years 3 - 6

FEBRUARY
Thurs 5th @ 8.45am
Toddler’s Music Group
Thurs 5th @ 3.30pm
Fun, Fit Families Sport begins
Thurs 5th @ 3.30 - 5pm
Year 5/6 Community Get Together
Sun 8th @ 10.30am
Opening School Year Mass & Staff Commissioning
Tues 10th @ 6pm - 8pm
Prep Family BBQ & Learning Conversation
Thurs 12th @ 8.45am
Toddler’s Music Group
Thurs 12th @ 3.30pm
Fun, Fit Families Sport
Thurs 12th @ 3.30 - 5pm
Year 1/2 Community Get Together
Fri 13th @ 3.30pm
Year 3/4 Community Get Together
Mon 16th @ 1pm - 8pm
3 Way Conversations
School Finishes @ 12.30pm
Mon 23rd
School Closure Day
Tues 24th @ 8.50am & 3pm
Storytime with the Principal

Tuesday, 3rd February 2015
Principal’s Message
Out of School Hours - After School Activities
Running each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm
This Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm the Fit Fun Families Out of School Hours, After School Activity begins. It is open to all children from Prep to Grade 6. Children are only allowed to attend if they have a parent or guardian with them. It will be held in the Auditorium. Correspondence has been sent out to all families detailing this program. If you need another enrolment form please come to the Office or just come along to the Auditorium this Thursday.
Next Monday, February 9th, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, a new Out of School Hours After School Activity run by Kelly Sports begins. This program is just for children in Grades Prep,1 and 2. Enrolment forms for this program accompany today’s newsletter.
Next Wednesday, February 11th, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, the Out of School Hours After School Activities program will begin for children in Grades 3,4,5 and 6. Enrolment forms for this program will come out later this week.
Please note all 3 Out of School Hours After School Activities are free and provide a great opportunity for your child to be involved in an extra curricula activity that keeps them fit and involved in sporting activities.

3 Way Conversations
The school is holding 3 Way Conversations on Monday 16th February, in the School Auditorium. These used to be called Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet Interviews. Interview forms will be sent home this week. Please book online as soon as possible in order for you to have an appointment. The children will be dismissed at 12.30pm on Monday 16th February.

School Closure Day
The school will be closed on Monday 23rd February as all Staff will be working on our School Review Document. Watch out for more news on St Mary’s School Review in next week’s newsletter.

Parking
Please remember the bus bay outside the school in New Street should only be used as a drop off and pickup point for cars. At all times the driver should remain in the car. The maximum time allowed to stay in the parking bay is 5 minutes. Drivers not following these Council rules risk the chance of receiving a fine from the Greater City of Dandenong. Under no circumstance should you leave your car unattended in this area.

Together with the Staff of St Mary’s I look forward to serving the families and children of our wonderful School Community over what will be an exciting, and I’m sure fulfilling, 2015 school year.

See you all on Sunday @10.30am at the Beginning of School Year Mass and Staff commissioning.

Greg White, Principal

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School Banking is every Wednesday
For every deposit made at school, no matter how small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking Program.
Natasha & Irina

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Zooper Doopers
$1 each
Mondays @ Lunchtime
From the Auditorium
P & F Fundraising
St Mary’s School Staffing 2015

Classroom Teachers
Amelia Burnie Prep B
Stephanie Meade Prep M
Steve Carter 1/2 C
Tessa Anstis 1/2 A
Stephanie Prince 1/2 P
Hannah Nevins 3/4 N
Amerall Blom (Mon – Thurs) & Yvette Silva (Fri) 3/4 SB
Anna Frangoulis (Mon – Wed) & Lina Ono (Thurs – Fri) 3/4 OF
Michael Walpole 5/6 W
Margaret Greig 5/6 G
Rose Stapleton 5/6 S

Specialist Curriculum Prep – 6
Clara Mangone Italian/LOTE
Tania Stranges Visual Arts Prep – Grade 2
Lina Ono Visual Arts Grade 3 – Grade 6
Neesha Bateson Physical Education Prep – Grade 6
Gary Pearl Performing Arts Prep – Grade 6
Denise Ryan ICT Prep – Grade 2

Curriculum Support
Terry Gardiner Co-Teaching and Learning Leader
Jo Cowan Co-Teaching and Learning Leader & Co-Literacy Leader
Marg Daly Co-Literacy Leader and Reading Recovery Teacher
Cathie Lynch Student Wellbeing and Student Services Leader
Anna Frangoulis Numeracy Leader & Family School Engagement Leader
Amerall Blom Religious Education Leader
Melissa Clark Number Intervention Teacher
Denise Ryan Number Intervention Teacher
Sue Brown Cluster Family School Engagement Convenor
Kathleen Roberts Classroom Support
Shyla Rathnam English as an Additional Language

Learning Support Officers
Kathy Siwek
Fil Olivetti
Michelle Grenfell
Anissa Benson
Kerryn Maynes Stephanie Alexander Garden/Kitchen – Garden Staff
Cristina Gostimir Stephanie Alexander Garden/Kitchen – Kitchen Staff
Mary Francis

Administration and School Improvement
Greg White Principal
Terry Gardiner Deputy Principal
Sandra Higginbotham Office Administration
Jane Merchant (Mon – Thurs) Office Administration
Anissa Benson (Fri) Office Administration
Cristina Gostimir Library Technician
Jean-Claude Radegonde Caretaker/Cleaner
St Mary’s Netball Club

At St Mary's Netball Club we believe that it doesn't matter where you are from.
If you know how to play or not.
You are welcome at St Mary's Netball Club with open arms.
We teach children between the ages of 5-17 the skills, rules and the game of netball in a fun and inclusive environment.
We keep our fees as low as possible and offer payment plans if needed.
We train on a Tuesday night and our games are played on a Saturday.

Come and meet us on Tuesday 10th of Feb
4.00pm-5.30pm at Gloria Pyke netball complex Dandenong.
Or contact Penny on 0449 663 258 for more information.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We urgently require donations of summer and winter dresses.

Parents & Friends Association

First meeting
Thursday 12th February @ 9am
in the Family Space.
All Welcome!!

School Contacts
Principal: Mr Greg White  Deputy Principal: Mr Terry Gardiner
School Secretaries: Mrs Sandra Higginbotham, Mrs Jane Merchant and Mrs Anissa Benson
School Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.15pm  Phone: 9791-7650 Fax: 9792-4827
Email: principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au  Website: www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au
Uniform Shop: The Uniform Shop is open each Thursday 8.30am - 10.00am.

St Mary’s Parish Education Board
Chairperson: Father Declan O’Brien  Parish Pastoral Associate: Mrs Cate Kavanagh  Principal: Mr Greg White
Deputy Principal: Mr Terry Gardiner  Religious Education Coordinator: Miss Amerall Blom
St Mary’s Teacher Rep: Miss Stephanie Meade  Parent Reps: Miss Cathy Buchanan, Victor Brillantes, Chris Yugusuk
St John’s School Board Representative: Mrs Kerry Cronjaeger

School Fees
Fee Statements for 2015 will be sent home next week.