Dear Families,

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2017 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.

Staffing news

As I informed the school community late last year, Mr Terry Gardiner (our previous Deputy Principal) was appointed Principal of Holy Eucharist, Malvern East. Over the holidays, Mrs Anna Hendy was appointed as the new Deputy Principal of St Mary’s. Mrs Jennifer D’Souza has now been appointed as Mrs Hendy’s replacement in the Year 3/4 area. We welcome Jennifer as our newest staff member and look forward to her association with our school and also congratulate Anna on her appointment as Deputy Principal.

Welcome back also to Ms Sarah McGuiness who will be working in the 5/6 area every Tuesday.

Please see the attached 2017 Staff List for full details of staff placements this year.

Beginning of the Year School Mass - this Sunday @ 10.30am

The Beginning of the year School Mass will be held this Sunday 12th 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 Year 6 students will also be commissioned as student leaders of our school and will receive their leadership hat and all classes will present their 2017 class prayer cloth. Please come along to celebrate the beginning of the school year and to ask for God’s blessings on all our families, the School and Parish.

Free After School Sports Activities:

The Active After School Sports program will continue to run this year from 3.30pm to 4.30pm starting next week on

- Mondays (Prep, Year 1 and 2) and
- Wednesdays (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Please note both After School Hours programs 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.
Community Get Togethers
All year 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 dates are as follows:
- Friday 3rd February - Year 5/6 Get Together 3.30pm - 5pm (held already)
- Tuesday 7th February - Prep Family BBQ 6pm - 8pm (this evening)
- Thursday 9th February - Year 1/2 Get Together 3.30pm - 5pm
- Friday 10th February - Year 3/4 Get Together 3.30pm - 5pm

Parent Teacher Meet and Greet / 3 Way Conversations - Monday 20th February
The school is holding 3 Way Conversations between parents, teachers and students on Monday 20th February in the School Auditorium. A notice 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 this day.

Parking
Please remember the bus bay outside the school in New Street should only be used as a drop off and pick up 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, 2017 school year.

See you all this Sunday @10.30am at the Beginning of School Year Mass and Staff commissioning and as well at the Grade level ‘Community Get Togethers’ over the next week.

Greg White, Principal

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After School Sports
A FREE and fun sports program for all students at St Mary's!

Prep-Year 2
Every Monday
(except 13th February and 13th March)
3.30pm—4.30pm

Year 3-6
Every Wednesday
3.30pm—4.30pm

** Tennis

** Tennis and Lawn Bowls
Our Summer Holidays
By 1/2 Anstis

Fay
I enjoyed going to the beach with my family and friends to collect shells.

Murray
I went to the beach and swam in the big waves. It was exciting.

Serena
I enjoyed going to Sydney and living in a Chinese hotel called Kent House.

Ripanjot
I went to my brother’s house and played board games.

Ryan
I went to a fun park and played games with my friends.

I saw Monster Truck at the movies and an octopus alien was the driver.

I watched the movie Moana at Fountain Gate and I liked the story about Mawi.

I went to Adventure Park with my mum and sister. The ferris wheel was fun.

The hotel where we stayed in the Grampians had a pool. I spent a lot of time in the pool.

On the holidays I went to Smiggles. I bought a pencil case and saw Hashmeet.

I went shopping and to Adventure Park where I used a floatie to lay in the water.

I enjoyed going to the beach with my family and friends to collect shells.

I went to the movies. Sing was a funny movie with lots of songs.

I saw Moana and Sing at the movies. Sing was a funny movie with lots of songs.
Learning Circles  3.25pm - 3.45pm
Every Thursday
Beginning next week in the Family Space

Come along with your family and share ideas for learning at home!

FREE Giveaways each week!!

P & F News!   Zooper Doopers
For sale every Monday
50cents

Fees
Fee statements will sent home later this month.

School Contacts
Principal:  Mr Greg White  Deputy Principal:  Mrs Anna Hendy
School Secretaries: Ms Sandra Higginbotham, Ms Jane Merchant
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 Kathy Gottlieben  Principal: Mr Greg White
Deputy Principal: Mrs Anna Hendy  Religious Education Coordinator: Miss Amerall Blom
St Mary’s Teacher Rep: Miss Stephanie Meade Parent Reps: Ms Cathy Buchanan, Mr Chris Yugusuk