Dear Families

End of Term Thank You

As the end of the Term draws near, I give a special thanks to St Mary’s Staff who are all very dedicated, hard working and professional members of our School Community. All staff continue to work in partnership with you, the parents, to ensure that our children can continue to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and academically and so reach their full potential.

Refugee Week

This week across Australian communities Refugee Week is being celebrated. Australia has celebrated Refugee Week since the 1980’s and its aims include:

- Educating the Australian public about who refugees are and why they come to Australia
- Helping people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia
- Celebrating the many contributions refugees make to our community
- Focusing on how communities can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees.

This year the theme of Refugee Week is ‘With courage let us all combine’. Notably, both the theme for refugee week, ‘With courage let us all combine’, and part of the title of the Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement, ‘For those who’ve come across the seas’, comes from the second verse of our Australian national anthem, Advance Australia Fair:

For those who’ve come across the seas
We’ve boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.

As part of the World Refugee Week celebrations, we as a school pray for all refugees across the world and especially for the many families at our school who have needed to leave their home country and take the opportunity to rebuild their lives in Australia.

Did you know that one third of all families or 85 children currently at St Mary’s come from a refugee family arriving in Australia from countries including South Sudan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Iraq and Iran. We are blessed at St Mary’s to be able to embrace and welcome so many families from countries where life is so challenging and dangerous and thank our St Mary’s refugee families for their rich and valuable contributions to our school and Australian society.

Please share this special prayer for Refugee Week:

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees, asylum seekers and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left their home or who have run away from home.

Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Breakfast Club - Every Tuesday @ 8.10am - 8.40am
Why not come to school a little bit earlier on Tuesdays and join us for Breakfast Club? It starts at 8.10am upstairs in the kitchen. There's toast, cereal, fruit, juice and lots of conversation and friendship.

2017 Prep Enrolments
Enrolments for Prep 2017 are now close to being finalised. If you or a friend has a child who turns 5 years old by April 30th, 2017, they are eligible to enrol their child. Enrolment forms are available at the Office.

End of Term - This Friday @ 2.30pm
All children will be dismissed at 2.30pm this Friday June 24th

Start of Term 3 - Tuesday July 12th
Term 3 will recommence on Tuesday July 12th as all staff will be involved in a curriculum day at St John’s on Monday July 11th, focusing on a whole school project called 'Collaborative Learning Program'.

School Closure Day - Monday July 18th
The school will be closed again on Monday July 18th for a curriculum day. On this day we will be focusing on collaboration with our SMAG schools.

Parent Teacher Meet and Greet - 3 Way Conversations
Tuesday 19th July 1.15pm to 8.00pm & Wednesday 20th July 3.45pm to 5.00pm
School finishes at 12.30pm on Tuesday 19th July for our second Parent-Teacher Meet and Greet - 3 Way Conversation for the year.
This time we are running the event over 2 days and we have extended the interview time to 15 minutes to enable the children to showcase their work.
To book online you need to go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the school event code x64he
Please see the flyer sent home today for all the details you need to make your appointment.

School Reports
All student school reports will go home tomorrow, Wednesday June 22nd.

Have a good time with your children over the holiday break.

Greg White, Principal

Regional Cross Country
Good luck to Jennifer, Juan and Aljack as they represent our school this Thursday at the Regional Cross Country Athletics.
School → District → Zone → Regionals!
It's a huge achievement to make it this far!!
Intentional Learning in Prep B

We have different learning areas such as: Sensory Table, Construction Table, Art Station, Dramatic Play Corner, St Mary’s Reporter, Technology Table and Book Corner.

Everyday we share our learning with the class to develop our oral language skills.

‘Intentional Learning’ makes learning fun! Just come and see!

We have to write, create, make, read and talk about our learning.

St Mary’s Reporter, Balam, today reports on the learning in Prep B.
**Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge**

We’re half-way through the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge.

So far we have **99** children enrolled

And those students have read an amazing **1,350** books!

*It’s not too late to join in!*

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to 16 years in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by the closing date of the challenge.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or ‘experience’ 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

If you would like your child to participate, please pick up a form at the Office.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll.

For more information about the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge and to view the booklists, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc)

If you have any queries please see Mrs Jo Cowan (jcowan@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au)

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**School Contacts**

Principal: Mr Greg White  
Deputy Principal: Mr Terry Gardiner  
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 Gottliebsen  
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: Ms Cathy Buchanan, Mr Victor Brillantes, Mr Chris Yugusuk

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**Fees**

Term 2 fees were due last week. If you are having difficulties please contact Greg White immediately.

**Enrolments**

Enrolments for the Prep 2017 school year are open. If you or a friend has a child who turns five years old by April 30th, 2017, they are eligible to be considered for enrolment at St Mary’s.