Dear Parents

3 Way Conversations

The school is holding 3 Way Conversations next Monday 15th February, in the School Auditorium. These were previously called Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet Interviews. Interview notes were sent home last week. Please book online by the end of this week at www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the code WPNED.

The children will be dismissed at 12.30pm next Monday 15th February. If you have any problems booking online, or need assistance, please see Sandra or Jane in the Office, or meet with Anna Frangoulis this Thursday in the Family Space. The After School Care program will be open from 12.30pm. If needed please make sure you have made a booking with Shereen on 0422803717.

Beginning of the Year School Mass and Staff Commissioning

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Beginning of Year Mass on Sunday. As a School Community we prayed for God’s guidance and support for the 2016 school year. Our Year 6 students were presented with their school leader hats by Fr Declan and the School Staff were commissioned by Fr Declan to work in partnership with the School Community to spread the Good News and enrich the children with their teaching.

Ash Wednesday Mass - 10th February @ 11.30am

There will be a whole School Mass this week for Ash Wednesday. Parents are welcome to come and begin the Lenten Journey with us.

Family Get Togethers

Just a reminder about the Community Get Togethers this week
- Year 1/2 children and families - Thursday 11th February 3.30 to 5pm
- Year 3/4 children and families - Friday 12th February 3.30 to 5pm.

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.

Junior Playground next to the Auditorium

Please note that children are not permitted to use the Junior Playground next to the School Auditorium before school. Children are only permitted to use this playground for a short period after school, and only under the direct and strict supervision of their parents.

After School Sporting Activities Program - Free to all Families

The After School Sports Activities Program will run again every
- Monday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, for children in Year Prep, 1 and 2. Please note due to the early finish next Monday 15th February the after school sports program will not run on this day.
- Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, for children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This program is free and offers your child a wonderful opportunity to be involved in an extra curricula activity after school that promotes fun and fitness as well as a healthy life style.
Storytime with the Principal
All school parents, as well as parents with their pre-schoolers, are invited to attend the first “Storytime with the Principal” for the year scheduled for next week on Thursday February 18th at 8.50am and also in the afternoon at 3.25pm. I welcome your school aged children to attend the new 3.25pm session with you.
At “Storytime with the Principal” I will be reading a popular picture story book. I will be reading this book to all children across the school over the next 2 weeks and they will be doing activities with their class teacher and myself related to the picture story book. The activities include work on understanding Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and in particular the competency of Social Awareness. At “Storytime with the Principal” I will be giving some advice on how to further instill a love of reading with your children.
All parents attending will receive a copy of the picture book to take home and share with your family. I hope you can support this event with your attendance. I also welcome pre-schoolers and babies to attend with you.

Term 1 Calendar
Attached to this newsletter is a calendar outlining major events and other important information for Term 1. Please find a special spot in your home for it so you are aware of events, activities, school closure times etc.

I wish all families in the Chinese school community a Happy Chinese New Year and a prosperous year ahead.

Greg White, Principal

Welcome to another year of Garden to Kitchen!
I am looking forward to teaching your children exciting things about gardening and cooking. As you are aware we were very fortunate in getting the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program at St Mary’s. Two years have flown since we began the program and I can tell you all that the children are enjoying the hands on learning experience of planting, growing, harvesting and cooking.
At St Mary’s we are also promoting the “Healthy Together Program”. This Program works well with the Garden Kitchen Program, teaching how important it is to eat a healthy balanced diet. Attached to this week’s newsletter is a poster from the Department of Health and Human Services outlining some healthy foods we can put in our children’s lunchboxes. Please share this information with your children and together you can make some healthy, delicious choices!
You can also go onto the website:
Please feel free to contact me in regards to any of the above information, or if you would like to come and help.
Enjoy healthy eating

Mrs Cris Gostimir cgotimir@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au
Anstis Busy

Learning in Group Work

We remembered how to log on to the computer without asking for help.
Michaellah

We have been matching alphabet letters with pictures.
Gurlean

We have learnt how to make trailers on the iPad.
Talei

We have learnt to spell new words using whiteboards and word cards.
Mary
The Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has called a jubilee year, a very special event in the Catholic Church, called the Year of Mercy. The jubilee year began on the 8th of December 2015 and will close on 20th of November 2016. The Holy Year of Mercy celebrates being a witness of mercy and invites us all to follow the example of God as merciful, forgiving and loving followers.

Ideas for home:
Talk about times when your child showed forgiveness.
Discuss ways to show forgiveness towards others.
Watch the following YouTube clip about the year of Mercy.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAXrKubZr8s&index=1&list=PL5sezwzkycUXgYK9AJZTgt2cRcJBY0hJR
Read following scripture passages and talk about God’s Mercy.

Luke teaches us to “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)
The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1–7) shows us the mercy of God.

Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass
When: Tomorrow 10th February
Time: 11:30am
Where: St Mary’s School Auditorium