Principal’s Message

3 Way Conversations
The school is holding 3 Way Conversations next Monday 16th February in the School Auditorium. These used to be called Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet Interviews. Interview notes were sent home last week. Please book online as soon as possible. The children will be dismissed at 12.30pm next Monday 16th 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 Sheereen 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 2015 school year. Our Grade 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. Thanks especially to the Joyful Singers Choir and our own School Choir, both under Doris’ guidance, for helping create such a joyous, prayerful and spiritual atmosphere.

Ash Wednesday Mass
There will be a whole School Mass next week at 9.15am 18th February for Ash Wednesday. Parents are welcome to come and begin the Lenten Journey with us.

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.

Family Get Togethers
Just a reminder about the Community Get Togethers this week. Prep children and families are gathering this evening Tuesday 10th February from 6pm to 8pm, Grade 1/2 children and families this Thursday 12th February from 3.30 to 5pm and Grade 3/4 children and families this Friday 13th February from 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.

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.
Welcome back to a new school year at St. Mary's!
Throughout the first few weeks of the school year we are focusing on making the children feel safe and welcome at school.
We want all students to know and understand the school rules and protocols. We want them to know that their teachers care about them and that they can help them if they have any problems. The younger students in the school are beginning to meet their older ‘buddies’ and the Prep children will soon receive their ‘Better Buddy’ Teddy Bears.

We are fortunate to have two counsellors working at our school.

Our very talented Francis Thurgood, will continue working here on Thursdays, and we are pleased to announce that Ganesh Ilango, our new School Counsellor, will be working on Tuesdays.

The School Counselling Program is a confidential service offered free of charge to all students. The School Counsellors will be available to discuss child-related issues such as:

- Behavioural concerns, both at school and at home
- Emotional problems such as anxiety, grief, depression, low self-esteem
- Family issues, such as separation/divorce, parenting difficulties, parent-child or sibling relationships
- Peer and social issues including bullying, peer relationships and social skills
- Developmental and academic concerns where appropriate

Counselling may involve a number of therapeutic methods including play and art therapies, individual/small group/class programs, skills training, as well as consultations with parents and teachers.

Students may be referred by school staff, parents or other professionals (e.g. family doctor), or students may refer themselves. Written parental consent is required for all children prior to commencement of counselling.

Kind regards, Cathie Lynch (Student Wellbeing and Student Services’ Leader)

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Out of School Hours - After School Activities - Free to all Families

- **Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm**
  Just a reminder that the Fit Fun Families Out of School Hours, After School Activity program runs every Thursday afternoon from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. 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.**

- **Monday from 3.30 - 4.30pm**
  Every Monday, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, the Out of School Hours After School Activity is run by Kelly Sports. This program is just for children in Grades Prep, 1 and 2. Please note due to the early finish next Monday 16th February and the closure day Monday 23rd February the Kelly sports program will not run on these 2 days.

- **Wednesday from 3.30 - 4.30pm**
  Every Wednesday, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Auditorium, the Out of School Hours After School Activities program for children in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 is run also by Kelly Sports.

**School Leadership Badge Presentation**
At assembly this Friday at 2.40pm Fr Declan will be presenting the Grade 6’s with their leadership badges. All are welcome to come along!

Greg White, Principal
This is 5/6S’ prayer cloth. We drew our own personal self portraits and Chrishni drew the cross in the middle of our prayer cloth. She also drew inside the cross.

For this project we had to cut out and stick our head on to the country where our parents were born. There were more of us in the west than the east.

This is called a lotus diagram. The point of this was to put a word in the middle and then put words around that relate to this word; for example our word was sports: so we wrote basketball, soccer, tennis etc.

Meet our new students in 5/6S

My name is Sugirtha.
I was born in
Sri Lanka.
I am 11 years old.
I like St Mary's because it is good and wonderful.

My name is Nadine and I am from the Philippines - Manila.
I am 10 years old, turning 11.
I like St Mary's because it feels like a family.
FUN FIT FAMILIES
EVERY THURSDAY
3:30pm - 4:30pm

We had a lot of fun on Thursday!! Why don’t you bring your family and join in on the fun?
Meet at the Auditorium at 3:30pm.

Remember parents/carers must stay for the duration of the activities!!!