Dear Families,

3 Way Conversations - School Finishes @ 12.30pm

The school is holding 3 Way Conversations next Monday 20th 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](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) using the code 35tkp. If you have any problems booking online, or need assistance, please see Sandra, Jane or Anna in the Office.

The After School Care program will be open from 12.30pm. You can make a booking by calling 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 2017 school year. Father Declan presented our Year 6 students with their school leader hats and commissioned the school staff to work in partnership with the School Community to spread the Good News and enrich the children with their teaching.

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 continues to run 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 20th 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.

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.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal
Welcome to the 5/6 Community

Welcome to the 5/6 Community and have a look at what has been happening so far.

**Our Communities mission statement:**
- 4 – 4 teachers
- S- St Mary’s
- T – together we are a family
- R- recover if we fall
- O- opportunities to share and learn
- N- never give up
- G- gratitude
- 65 – 65 students

The Year 5/6’s are excited to be leaders this year. We have been working hard writing leadership speeches. We will be presenting them on Thursday.

The 5/6 community was welcoming towards new students and other students. It made everyone feel joyous and welcomed to feel like a big family. Also, we were all immediately learning and on task.

We have begun Garden to Kitchen this week and are enjoying cooking and eating!!!

We are working in literacy and mathematics groups focusing on our learning goals.

The 5/6 community all started on red privilege cards to be fair to all. All of us have been following directions and are on task. Therefore, working towards receiving a yellow privilege card.

We have new buddies this year. We are helping them to improve reading. Also, we are there to give them a helping hand on the playground.

By Angelo, Jeovine and Kim
Welcome back to all families at St Mary’s School!

All the children in our school have got off to a great start in 2017. Teachers have been focusing on setting up classrooms, revising school expectations and building positive relationships. Students have been making new friends and meeting their ‘buddies’.

All children at St. Mary’s deserve to feel safe at school. St Mary’s is a place where children will find support, be respected and develop friendships. At St Mary’s, children feel that they belong at school, they are happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems. They are also more motivated to learn.

As a parent/family you can help by:

- Finding out about what your child is learning about at school
- Participating in the 3-Way Conversations
- Making time to listen to your child telling you about school
- Letting your child’s teacher know if he/she is having difficulties
- Checking for notices that are sent home and reading the school newsletter
- Attending information sessions, Family Get Togethers, Learning Circles and social activities at school
- Making contact with other parents and carers at school

I am looking forward to continuing on working together with you and your children throughout 2017.

Kindest regards,

Cathie Lynch - Student Wellbeing and Student Services Leader
Parent Learning at St Mary’s Primary School

Keysborough Learning Centre would love to run **FREE** Parent Workshops and Courses at St Mary’s School.

If you are interested, please fill in the attached sheet and tick the workshops and activities you would be interested in.

For more information, please call Anna Hendy on 9791 7650 or email at ahendy@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au

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**CAR BOOT SALE/COMMUNITY DAY**

**Sunday, 5th March - 12.00noon to 5.00pm**
At St Mary’s School grounds

All those wishing to sell their goods will be charged $10.00 for a space to set up.

BBQ and fun activities including a talent quest—$2.00 to enter

Anyone interested in selling their goods or running a fun activity please contact Helen Anderson on 0425 753 413

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**Fees**

Fee statements went home on Monday 13th February. Please check your child’s school bag for the letter.

Term 1 fees are due on the 17th March. Direct Debit forms are available from the Office.

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**St Mary’s Parish Education Board**

Chairperson: Father Declan O’Brien  Parish Pastoral Associate: Mrs Kathy Gottliebsen  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

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**Harmony Day Help Wanted!**

If you are available to help with the BBQ on Harmony Day please leave your name at the Office.