**Principal’s Message**

**February**
- Thurs 18th @ 8.50am
  - “Storytime with the Principal”
- Thurs 18th @ 9.15am
  - St John’s Open Morning
- Thurs 18th @ 3.25pm - 3.45pm
  - Learning Circle - “Storytime with the Principal”

**Fri 19th**
- AFL Clinic
  - Fri 19th @ 2.40pm
- Assembly - 5/6 Stapleton
  - Mon 22nd @ 9.15am
- Mass 3/4 Hendy/Ono & 1/2 Carter
- Thurs 25th @ 3.25pm
  - Learning Circle

**Fri 26th**
- AFL Clinic
  - Fri 26th @ 2.40pm
- Assembly - Leadership Badge Presentation
  - Mon 29th @ 9.15am
- Mass 5/6 Stapleton & Prep Burnie

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**Dear Parents**

“Storytime with the Principal” - This Thursday

All school parents, as well as parents with their pre-schoolers, are invited to attend the first “Storytime with the Principal” for the year on this 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 am currently reading this book to all children across the school and they are also doing activities with their class teacher and myself related to the 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 instil 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.

**3 Way Conversations**

Thank you to all families for attending the very valuable 3 Way Conversations held yesterday. It was great to see and speak to so many of you. Please remember to keep those communication channels open over the year with your child’s teachers, to discuss any concerns, issues, or just to celebrate a good news story. Also, please don’t hesitate to contact me over the year if you would like to discuss anything.

**Family Get Togethers**

It was wonderful to see and meet with so many families over the last two weeks at the Year Level Community Get Togethers. These get togethers were held to engender a spirit of involvement, support and engagement with all families. Congratulations and thanks to our Family Engagement in Learning Leader Anna Frangoulis for coordinating and organizing these highly successful events.

**School Fee Accounts**

All families should have received their School Fee Accounts for Term 1. Please ensure prompt payment by Thursday March 24th unless other payment arrangements have been made.

**Second Hand Uniform Shop - Open Next Monday @ 9am**

The second hand uniform shop is bursting at the seams with school jumpers! If your child needs a jumper for winter please come and meet Tina next Monday in the Family Space. All items are selling for $5.

**Help Required in the Canteen**

Amelia is looking for someone to help out in the canteen. If you have any spare time during the day and would like to get involved please let the Office know and they can pass on your details.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal
I’m a school kid now!

Now that I am at school I like learning how to write. - Marley

Now that I am in Prep I can learn my alphabet. - Anthony

Now that I am in Prep I can be with my big sisters. - Atong

Now that I am in Prep I can go to art. - Fay

Now that I am in Prep I can play

Now that I am in Prep I like writing because I always write. - Rehan
Welcome to the 2016 school year at St Mary’s. Throughout the first few weeks the teachers have been focusing on making the children feel safe and welcome.

The children have been learning about St Mary’s school rules, protocols and expectations. All classes have developed class mission statements. Ask your children to show you their class poster hanging in the school foyer.

Please come along to Assembly on Friday 26th February, the 2016 student leaders will receive their badges and the Prep students will receive their Better Buddy Teddy Bears.

This year there will be two counsellors working at St Mary’s. Frances Thurgood will continue working here on Mondays and Thursdays and Brittany Watkins 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. Students can be referred by school staff, parents or other professionals (e.g. family doctor) or students may refer themselves.

Also Michelle Foulds, our school nurse, will be seeing our Prep students and any other new students from Years 1 to 6 in the following few weeks.

I look forward to continuing working together throughout 2016.

Kindest regards,

Cathie Lynch - Student Wellbeing & Student Services Leader

SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM
- SCHOOL NURSE VISIT

Michelle Foulds your visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Training will be attending the school during Term 1 to conduct the Prep health assessments.

The purpose of the visit is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment to link children, families and the school to relevant community services; and provide information and advice that promotes health and wellbeing.

If you have any concerns you would like to discuss with the Primary School Nurse and your child is in Prep a ‘School Entrant Health Questionnaire’ needs to be completed. If your concerns relate to a child in Years 1-6 a School Nurse Referral Form’ will need to be completed. Please speak to your class teacher who can assist you with this. The School nurse can then contact you regarding your concerns.
School banking has started. Our school banking day this year is **Tuesday**.

Don’t forget to encourage your child to send in their bank book to get fantastic rewards. The program is supported with a range of fun and engaging materials to help your child learn about money and to encourage them to save.

If you have misplaced your child’s book, leave a message at the office and a new book will be sent home with your child.

If you would like your child to join CBA Dollamites school banking, go to any CBA branch or ask for an application form at the school office.

Your School Banking Co-Ordinators - Natasha & Irina

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**Reading Room**

The Reading Room is open Monday to Thursday from 8.45am to 10.00am.

We are always looking for volunteers to come and read and play games with the children.

Please contact the Office for more information.

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**School Contacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal:</th>
<th>Mr Greg White</th>
<th>Deputy Principal:</th>
<th>Mr Terry Gardiner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Secretaries:</td>
<td>Mrs Sandra Bigginbotham, Mrs Jane Merchant and Mrs Anissa Benson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Office Hours:</td>
<td>8.30am - 4.15pm</td>
<td>Phone: 9791-7650</td>
<td>Fax: 9792-4827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au">principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au">www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop:</td>
<td>The Uniform Shop is open each Thursday 8.30am – 10.00am.</td>
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**St Mary’s Parish Education Board**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chairperson:</th>
<th>Father Declan O’Brien</th>
<th>Parish Pastoral Associate:</th>
<th>Mrs Kathy Gottliebsen</th>
<th>Principal:</th>
<th>Mr Greg White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal:</td>
<td>Mr Terry Gardiner</td>
<td>Religious Education Coordinator:</td>
<td>Miss Amerall Blom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Teacher Rep:</td>
<td>Miss Stephanie Meade</td>
<td>Parent Reps:</td>
<td>Cathy Buchanan, Victor Brillantes, Chris Yugusuk</td>
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**Fees**

2016 Fee Statement and payment structure went home last week.

If you have not received yours please check your child’s school bag. Term 1 fees are due on the 18th March 2016.