Dear Families

Welcome back to the final term for the year. I look forward to another productive and happy term with many significant school events and learning opportunities to be shared by all.

Sad News

We extend our prayers and thoughts to Rita Sly and her family at the recent sad loss of her husband Ron. Rita served the school for over 20 years in a voluntary capacity as the manager of our canteen and still continues assisting the school in a voluntary capacity with our current canteen manager Amelia.

Grade 3/4 School Camp - This Wednesday to Friday

Great excitement is building in the Year 3/4 classes this week. The students are preparing to go to the Briars Camp, on the Mornington Peninsula tomorrow. I will be attending the camp for the duration with the students and staff. We wish them all a safe, enjoyable and happy time!!!

“Storytime with the Principal”

This term the dates for “Storytime with the Principal” are:

- Thursday October 20th at 8.50am and 3.25pm (Learning Circles)
- Thursday November 17th at 8.50am and 3.25pm (Learning Circles)
- Thursday December 8th at 8.50am and 3.25pm (Learning Circles)

Hopefully many parents will attend these sessions over the term. They usually go for about 15 to 20 minutes and each family attending is given a free copy of the picture book to take home. Also, by coming along, all families receive information and guidance on how I work with the children and staff across the school on the respective book, making connections to our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program. Remember that pre-school children are especially welcome to attend as well. I look forward to seeing many of you at the next “Storytime with the Principal”.

Extra Curricula After School Sporting Activities - Start Next Week

Just a reminder that we have terrific and engaging extra curricula after school sporting activities, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm starting back next week, every -
- Monday - for children in Year Prep, 1 and 2
- Wednesday - for children in Year 3, 4, 5, 6

All programs are free and support the ongoing physical, social and emotional growth of all children. It’s a great way to make friends as well!

School Closure

School will be closed on Monday 31st October for a staff report writing day and Tuesday 1st November for Melbourne Cup.

HATS, HATS, HATS!!

All children need to wear a school hat when outside for recess, lunch and PE lessons. Hats can be purchased for $11 from the Uniform Shop or the Office. Have a great week!!

Greg
**District and Regional Athletics**

What wonderful success our athletic squad had at District level and then at Regional level on the last day of term.

St Mary’s finished a very commendable and very close 5th overall out of 10 local government and Catholic schools.

We had quite a number of outstanding individual and team performances.

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Ashleigh Cano</td>
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<td>Relay - Girls</td>
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<td>Jennifer, Emma, Rebecca, Nemesia</td>
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<td>Relay - Boys</td>
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<td>Lado, Alex, Seemona, Aljack</td>
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<td>Relay - Boys</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Nydriani, Abel, Moses, Eric</td>
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The following students have now qualified to compete at the Metropolitan Regional Finals next week. Only one step away from competing at the State Championships!!

We wish them every best luck in their athletic endeavours.

- Abel Shainy (1st long jump, breaking the District long jump record and 1st high jump)
- Lado Kose (2nd high jump)
- Jennifer Justin (2nd 800metres)
- Nydriani J’a’mme (2nd hurdles)
- Coralie Gugroop (2nd triple jump)
- Aljack Arop (2nd 1500 metres)
Welcome back to St Mary's for an exciting and engaging term of learning.

This term the focus of our Positive Behaviour and SEL Program is:

**Being a Learner**

Children will be learning about:
- staying on task
- coming prepared to class
- being ready to learn
- working to the best of their ability
- listening to feedback
- letting others learn

Please talk to your children about what it means to be a learner.

Ask your children: **What makes a good learner?**

Talk with them about how you personally go about learning new things.

  - Do you talk about your ideas? Maybe you jot them down? Do you listen to the ideas of others?
  - Do you reflect on your ideas?
  - Have you ever learned from a mistake?
  - Have you ever been like your own teacher when you are learning something new?

John Hattie a well-known educationalist, states that:

"If we were to make no errors, we would be less likely to learn."

"The greatest effects on student learning occur when teachers become learners and when students become their own teachers."  
  
  John A.C. Hattie

I hope you enjoy discussing these ideas with your children. It is important for them to know how we learn and how we can make it easier for others to learn.

*Kindest regards,*

*Cathie Lynch (Student Wellbeing and Student Services Leader),*

on behalf of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Team.
GARDEN TO KITCHEN PROGRAM

The 5/6 Community are enjoying another term of great cooking and gardening. We would love for you to have the opportunity to join us on a Monday morning between 9:30-11:00 or 11:30-1:00 to help out in the Kitchen, and then enjoy a light meal from the amazing recipes the students cook.

Please contact Mrs Gostimir by email if you can help in anyway. An hour or even half an hour would be most helpful.

cgostimir@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au

Thanks
Cristina Gostimir

Footy Week Raffle raised $112.80 for Caritas!

P&F Fundraising
Cadbury chocolates will be available for purchase in the Classroom this Term for $1 each.

Fees
Fees are now overdue. Please contact Mr White immediately if you are experiencing difficulties paying your fees.
Statements were sent home Monday 3rd October.

Enrolments
Closing soon.
Come and see Sandra & Jane at the Office.

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 Gottlieben  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

The second hand uniform shop will be open next on:
Monday 17th October @ 9am