Dear Families

“Storytime with the Principal" - This Thursday

Storytime with the Principal is scheduled for this Thursday at 8.50am and then as part of Learning Circles at 3.25pm. The book being read relates to the SEL competency of "Self Management" and is called "Flood" written by Jackie French and illustrated by Bruce Whatley. This is a story that shows how strong and devastating flood water can be to homes and livelihoods. It is inspired by the 2011 Queensland floods but it could be about any of the disasters that strike our land, and the events that turn everyday Australians into heroes. "Flood" depicts water mercilessly ripping through Queensland towns and then receding, leaving destruction and devastation in its wake. Told from the perspective of a cattle dog who is separated from his family, “Flood" helps children to understand the affects of a traumatic natural disaster without being too confronting. “Flood" is a beautiful and timely expression of the strength of the Australian spirit during times of adversity. I'm looking forward sharing this book with many of you and your children on Thursday.

School Closure - 31st October & 1st November

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

2017 Enrolments

We are currently finalising the 2017 Prep classes. Please call in and see Sandra or Jane at the Office to collect an enrolment form and find out more information. Also please ensure that you have returned the 2017 general enrolment form sent home last week to all families as we are currently also finalising all 2017 Classes.

District Regional Athletics

Congratulations to the following children who were either placed 1st or 2nd at the District Regional Finals last term and as a result progressed through to the Victorian Regional Finals last week.

- Abel Shainy - long jump & high jump - again breaking the District long jump record
- Lado Kose - high jump
- Jennifer Justin - 800metres
- Nidriani Ja’Amme - hurdles
- Coralie Gugroop - triple jump
- Aljack Arop - 1500 metres.

Against some of the best junior athletes in Southern Victoria our St Mary’s students, although not quite qualifying for the State titles, performed brilliantly and were a credit to themselves, their families and our school!!!

School Fees

Unless you are on a pre-arranged payment schedule, all school fees for the year should have been paid by the end of last term. If you are having difficulty finalising your school fee commitment for 2016 please contact the Office immediately to make alternate arrangements, otherwise please pay any outstanding amount.

Greg White, Principal
This term the Year 5/6 Inquiry topic has been amazing!

We have been discovering circuits with Mrs Shepherdson and learning about light and shadows with Mrs Stapleton.

We found out what insulators and conductors are and used wires to connect conductors to make lights turn on and off.

Mr Walpole taught us about lasers and mirrors. We learnt that man made light shines in a straight line and that laser beams can reflect off mirrors.

My favourite part of the Inquiry Unit so far has been using batteries, playdough and other items to see what conductors and insulators are.

Our Tinkering incursion informed us about solar energy, buzzers and how to make basic motors. I’m looking forward to learning more about design and technology throughout the rest of Term 4.

By Angelo - 5/6 Walpole
Here are 10 ways to become a better reader!

At school we provide as many opportunities as we can to encourage our children to read and develop the skills of not only reading the words (decoding) but also understanding what they are reading about (comprehension).

At home you can encourage, support and improve your child’s reading skills in decoding and comprehension by following the ten easy steps!
So go ahead and read!
Learning Circles

Come along, come along!!!
Every Thursday in the Family Space we host a Learning Circle.
They are short, sharp ways that you can engage your child in learning and you can learn ways in which to work with your children! Topics covered vary from addition, subtraction, maths games, literacy games, setting up Prayer spaces at home, strategy games and all sorts of other important aspects of the curriculum.

Sssssshhhhhhh... don’t tell anyone, but there is almost ALWAYS a little giveaway of some sort!!!

See you at the next Learning Circle on Thursday at 3:45!!!

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

P&F Fundraising
Cadbury chocolates will be available for purchase from the SRC students this Term for $1 each.

Zooper Doopers
50 cents
Available on Mondays this Term from the Auditorium Canteen