Dear Families

Welcome
We have recently welcomed 2 new students into the St Mary’s Community; Meredith Chiong (3/4 Silva/Blom) and Hunar Hunar (5/6 Walpole). Please make them and their families feel welcome when you see them around the school.

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. Outside Hours School Care will be open on the Monday so please give them a call on 0422 803 717 if you would like to enrol your child there for the day.

2017 Enrolments
We are currently finalising all 2017 enrolments for Prep and other year levels. 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 re-enrolment form which was sent home 2 weeks ago to all families so we can organise classes for next year.

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.

House Athletics - This Friday October 28th - Year 3 - 6
Year 3 to 6 are participating in our first ever house athletics event at the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre this Friday morning. The House Athletics will give the children an opportunity to experience an athletic carnival on an athletic track and field arena. We will be walking down to the athletics track and would love some parent helpers to join us for the morning. If you are able to assist please contact your child’s class teacher to let them know of your availability.

School Choir
Congratulations to our school choir who sang so beautifully at the Annual Interfaith Choir Festival in Springvale last week, along side a number of other schools from the Greater City of Dandenong. Thanks to Doris Ziouane and Amerall Blom who prepared the children for this special event.

2017 Prep and Whole School Transitions
We welcome all our new Prep children and their parents next week on Friday 4th November from 9.30am to 11.00am as they attend the first of 4 orientation days, in preparation for their entry into school next year. Whilst the children attend the orientation session next week their parents will attend an information session with myself, our Literacy Leader Jo Cowan, Deputy Principal Terry Gardiner and staff. All other grades will also spend time during that morning in possible 2017 classes as part of their transition for next year.

Have a great week.
I liked the tigers. I was a little bit sad about them because you know animals shouldn't be in the zoo, they should be out in the wild. So it was a little sad. - Shanyah

My favourite animal is the zebra because it has a long tail. The giraffe was kind of my favourite too. My favourite was also a crocodile. - Ludmila

The best thing about the zoo was looking at the Monkeys. - Bakam
Student Wellbeing News

This Thursday 27th October, St Mary’s school will take part in: A Day for Daniel

Children in all year levels will be taking part in activities that focus on:
Respectful Relationships, Respectful Behaviours, Dealing with Bullying,
Cyber Safety and Developing Empathy.

Please encourage your child to wear something red on the day.

‘Day for Daniel’ is a National Day of Action to raise awareness about child safety and protection. Please talk with your child/children about personal safety in the real world and online.

Wear Red and Educate is the theme of ‘Day for Daniel’ as we strive to take action and conduct child safety activities to help in ‘Keeping Kids Safe’.

The objectives of ‘Day for Daniel’ are:
 To raise awareness about child safety and protection and to promote a safer community for children.
 To educate children regarding their personal safety and empower them to RECOGNISE, REACT and REPORT.
 To honour the memory of Daniel Morcombe. ‘Day for Daniel’ is an opportunity for Australians to make a statement that crimes against children are not acceptable in Australia. It aims to help empower our children to RECOGNISE, REACT and REPORT if they feel something is not right.

Best wishes,
Cathie Lynch, Student Wellbeing & Student Services Leader

Remembrance Day – November 11th
We are now selling poppy pins (50 cents) and poppy wrist bands ($3) to help raise money for the RSL to support the work they do for our returned service people and their families.
The SRC will be selling the pins and wrist bands at recess and lunch, until November 11th.
HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Year Level: 3, 4, 5, 6
Date: Friday 28th October
Venue: Dandenong Little Athletics Centre
Transport: Walk to and from St Mary’s Primary School (Melways: 90, H6)
Departure Time: 9:00am
Return Time: 1:30pm
What to wear: House Colours otherwise school sports shorts & t-shirt, and runners
What to bring: water bottle, snack & lunch, school sports pants & jumper, wet weather jacket, a small back-pack to keep belongings in

Dandenong Little Athletics Centre is within a 2km radius of St Mary’s. As such, you do not need to sign a permission form as you signed a form at the beginning of the year giving your child permission to walk within a 2km radius of St Mary’s School.

Parent Helpers:
Each class needs 2 or 3 parents to walk with the class to and from the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre and to also help the class teacher run the events.

If you CAN HELP next Friday 28th October, please tell your child’s teacher

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.

The second hand uniform shop will be open next on:
Monday 7th November @ 9 am

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 Gottliebsen  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 Brilliantes, Mr Chris Yugusuk