Dear Families

2016 First Eucharist Meeting - Tonight
Children receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist on one of the weekend masses in November are required to attend, along with their parents, a Eucharist Workshop Family Night this evening @7.00pm in the school Auditorium.

2017 Prep and Whole School Transitions - This Friday
We welcome all our new Prep children and their parents this Friday 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 on Friday their parents will attend an information session with myself, our Literacy Leader Jo Cowan, Deputy Principal Terry Gardiner and staff.

All other year levels will also spend time during that morning in possible 2017 classes as part of their transition for next year.

Athletics Carnival
Thanks and congratulations to all the staff and parent helpers who came out in the magnificent sunshine last Friday to share in St Mary's first ever Athletics Carnival at the Dandenong Little Athletics centre.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the children in Year 3 to 6 to get a real sense of what an athletics track feels and looks like and perhaps an opportunity they may not get otherwise.

The final results were as follows: 1st GOLD (146), 2nd BLUE (102), 3rd GREEN (98), 4th RED (87)

Congratulations
Congratulations to Khot (3/4 Silva/Blom), Tedial (1/2 Anstis) and Bakam (Prep Burnie) who welcomed a baby sister into their family this week.

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 3 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.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal
The Greater Dandenong Combined Schools Interfaith Gathering - Tuesday 18th October

The Interfaith Gathering is all about promoting understanding, respect and tolerance of different beliefs so that we can all live together in peace and harmony.

Our choir members from Prep to Year 6 attended the gathering which was held at the Hoa Nhgiem Buddhist Temple Hall in Springvale, along with almost 400 students from 10 different Primary and Secondary schools within the Greater City of Dandenong.

Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Hindu and Islam were some of the religions represented on the day.

Students from each different school introduced one of the faiths along with the religious leader for that faith. This was followed by each school performing a song or dance which focused on the United Nations theme of ‘The Heartbeat of Life’.

Students from St Mary’s introduced Sikhism and performed 2 songs; ‘Pulse’ and ‘The Heartbeat Song’.

The day was a wonderful experience for our students and we all enjoyed immensely.

Sacrament of First Eucharist

Information Session: Tonight (2nd November) at 7pm in the school Auditorium.

All students preparing for this Sacrament are expected to attend tonight with their parents.

Upcoming dates:

First Eucharist Reflection Day: Monday 7th November

First Eucharist Masses: Saturday 19th November at 6pm at St Mary’s Church
Sunday 20th November at 10:30am at St Mary’s Church

St Mary’s Church is due to open on the 16th of November, God willing, if all goes as planned.

However, if the Church is incomplete, the Masses will take place in the school Auditorium.
Justice, Compassion and the Beatitudes
By 5/6 Shepherdson

This term the students have been learning about Compassion and Justice in the Bible and have been examining the Beatitudes as a model of how to live in right relationships with one another and with God.

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF JESUS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The students each chose a Beatitude which they felt a connection with, then answered reflective questions to demonstrate the depth of their understanding.

The following are some of their responses.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

This Beatitude is about the people who might have lost someone important to them, like a family member or a close friend. To mourn is when you show your sadness or other emotions towards a person that you may have lost.
By Cindy and Abel

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God"

This Beatitude is about people with a pure heart. A pure heart is someone with a clean heart. This Beatitude speaks about the importance of blessing the people who are good and have a clean heart. They will go to heaven and see God.
By Jylisa

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God"

This Beatitude is speaking about how pure means to be clean, so I think to be pure in heart, means to be free of sins and guilt. The section which says "They shall see God," means in their afterlife they will be with God in heaven because they have lived a life free of sin.
By Ryan and Nimrod

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy"

This beatitude is about people who are in need of mercy will be given mercy when they show others the same. The message in this Beatitude is to give mercy to people just as God and Jesus do. Jesus was talking to the crowds of people that were gathering around him and was always talking about Mercy. Today Jesus is talking through the Church and telling everyone to be merciful.
By Anne

What can I do to be 'merciful, pure in heart, a person who hungers and thirsts for righteousness'?

To be merciful you have to be forgiving to others so you have to forgive others when they ask for forgiveness. Even if they don’t ask you still have to forgive them. To be pure in heart means to ask for forgiveness, so that you have no sins and this will make you a person with a clear conscious. A person who sacrifices most of their money, stuff and time for justice is what is meant by a person who hungers and thirst for righteousness. By Nimrod and Ryan

"Blessed are the meek, as they shall inherit the Earth."

This Beatitude is speaking about the people who are not noticed and are humble, that they will be noticed and taken to Heaven. By Aryan
St Mary’s News

Term 4 Issue 34

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 Brillantes, Mr Chris Yugusuk

Year 3 - 6 House Athletics 2016

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 @ 9am

Page 4