Dear Families

**Transition Process**

In preparation for the 2017 school year we run 4 transition sessions for our current students and the new children and parents who will be joining our St Mary’s community. Our first session last Friday and was a great success! Our new parents had the chance to meet and talk, and to ask all of those questions that new parents have, while the teachers had time to observe the children in class groupings. When meeting with all the new parents I asked them what their “hopes and dreams” were for their children attending St Mary’s school.

Some very thought provoking responses were made:

“I hope and dream that my child at St Mary’s school will be…..

independent, self confident, persistent, tolerant, accepting, a good learner, resilient, dedicated, motivated, responsible, a good spirited person, a leader, receive a good education, friendly, social, God fearing, a good human, respectful, disciplined, happy, upholding good values and hopeful”.

All parent answers were very insightful and strongly reflect our whole school philosophy and what St Mary’s school vision hopes to fulfil.

There are another 3 transition sessions planned for the remainder of the term, with the next being next Monday November 14th. The purpose of the sessions is to give the children an experience of working in their new areas and to give the teachers an opportunity to look at class groupings and make adjustments to class lists as they develop. This is a very clearly thought through and well planned process and caters to the needs of our students.

**Welcome**

This week we welcome Michael Jouth (Prep M) and his family into our St Mary’s community.

**2017 Enrolments**

We are currently finalising all 2017 enrolments across all year levels. Please call in and see Sandra or Jane at the Office to collect an enrolment form.

**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.

**“Storytime with the Principal”** – Thursday November 17th

Our next “Storytime with the Principal” will be on Thursday next week at 8.50am then again at 3.25pm (as part of Learning Circles). All parents are welcome to attend, with or without toddlers and with school children at the 3.25pm session! I’m linking the next book to the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competency of self awareness. All children are currently learning about this in their classrooms. Parents, grandparents or other adults attending will receive the “Storytime with the Principal” book of the month to take home and share with their family.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal
Three Billy Goats Gruff Challenge

Create a new way for the Three Billy Goats Gruff to cross the river.

I created a new bridge using a waterproof cardboard roll. By Emma
I created a flying fox. By Jordan
I created wings for the Billy Goats. By Justin
I created a new bridge with bricks. By Mia
I created jet boots. By Preston
I created a flying fox. By Lynn
I created a boat with a sail. By Serena
I created a sideways elevator. By Daniel
I created stepping stones. By Theresa
I created a swinging rope. By Aadi
I created a glass elevator. By Prarshna
I created a bridge made out of bricks. By Prabhnoor.
I created a boat. By Doki
I created a new bridge using a tree. By Sithmi
I created rocket boots. By Tobias
I created stepping stones. By May
I created a flying fox. By Christina
I created a tree bridge. By Lei
I created a trampoline. By Ethan
All Families are invited to
St Mary’s Remembrance Day Prayer Service
Friday 11th November @ 11am

We are 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 the end of the week.

Dandenong Primary Kinder Visits

Each week Mrs Hendy and Year 5 students visit the children at Dandenong Primary Kindergarten.

It is a great way to develop partnerships with other organisations in Dandenong and to also build leadership skills in our Year 5 students.

St Mary’s students love being there and the kinder children absolutely love having us there too!
A QUIET ADVENT REFLECTIVE DAY FOR WOMEN
THEME: ‘MIDWIVES OF AN UNNAMED FUTURE’

How do we understand our call to make
God visible in today’s world?
Sr Ilia Delo says so well, “Christian life is a commitment to love, to give birth to God
in one’s own life and to become midwives of divinity in this evolving cosmos.
We are to be wholesalers of love in a world of change.”

December 3rd 10am-3pm
Holy Cross Retreat Centre
207 Serpells Road,
Templestowe,
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL PHONE 98466014

BYO LUNCH
Morning Tea/Coffee will be provided
A Donation of $25 is invited
Treat yourself to a day of quiet

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 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 Yugussuk

St Mary’s Breakfast Club
Come and enjoy a chat and
a free breakfast at the
Breakfast Club,
to help start your day
in a good way!

Tuesday's
8.10am - 8.40am

The second hand
uniform shop will be
open next on:
Monday 21st
November @ 9am