Dear Families

Twilight Sports

What a wonderful Twilight sports we enjoyed on a cool Friday evening last week. Thanks to the many parents who were in attendance enjoying the children’s efforts and having a relaxing time. The children’s cheering and chants were in full force and the parent’s and staff races were a highlight!!

Congratulations to Blue House on winning the Aggregate Shield and the Team Spirit trophy. A special thanks and congratulations to our Physical Education Teacher, Neesha Bateson for organizing a wonderful Twilight Sports event, as well a big thanks to all the staff who supported Neesha and the children to ensure the success of the evening.

Christmas “Storytime with the Principal”

Thursday December 8th

Our next “Storytime with the Principal” is on Thursday next week at 8.50am and then again at 3.25pm (as part of Learning Circles). All parents are welcome to attend the morning session with or without toddlers, then after school with your children! This is a special “Christmas Storytime with the Principal” and all adults and children attending will get to take home a beautiful Christmas story book for their family.

Swimming

All is going well with the swimming program. Please remember to assist your children by reminding them to bring their swimming gear to school every day and make sure all their clothing is labelled. Lost property is being displayed in the office foyer.

School Fees

A final reminder that school fee accounts were sent home several weeks ago. Unless separate arrangements have been made, all parents with outstanding fees should already have made their final payment for 2016. Please contact me immediately if you are having difficulties making your final payment.

Child Safety Legislation and Implications for Volunteer Helpers at St Mary’s School

Recent Child Safety Victorian State Government Legislation as well as new guidelines put out by the Melbourne Catholic Education Office are enforcing stricter requirements upon schools for volunteers. New requirements that will be enforced at St Mary's school in 2017 include:

- All parents who volunteer at the school (this includes but is not restricted to helping out in the classroom and going on excursions) must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC).
- Any parent who has not volunteered their services in the school over the last 12 months will be required to complete a volunteer application form as well, if they wish to volunteer their services at the school.

I’m sure you will agree these new requirement will further strengthen current Child Safety requirements we already have in place at our school. I have included a WWCC Information Guide which explains how to apply.

The WWCC is free.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal
The 5/6 Community is inviting you to come to the Auditorium on Monday December 5th from 2:00pm to 3:45pm, to see our wonderful Inquiry Projects. This Design and Technology Convention is about this term’s Inquiry Project called “Tinkering with Technology”. We have learned a lot throughout this term about technology and we have made our own experiments and models to demonstrate our understanding.

Throughout the term, the teachers have helped us learn about technology and light. In Mr. Walpole’s group, he taught us about light and mirrors, and that you can reflect light using a mirror.

In Mrs. Shepherdson’s group, the 5/6’s got to learn through hands on activities. The students had the chance to make a circuit with a switch that had to be made out of paper clips or other conductors that are in the 5/6 community.

In Mrs. Stapleton’s group, we learned about light and the eye. We learned about how the eye converts the things you see to the brain. Written By Frank

Date: Monday, December 5th
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:45 PM
Place: Auditorium

The 5/6 community would love to see you there, so come on over!

*Students from the 5/6 community will be picked up from the Auditorium
Last Friday was our Twilight Sports for 2016. Again, the event was held at St John’s Regional College and the weather held out just long enough for the event to be simply AMAZING!!!

The children went through some different activities this year and worked well in their teams. The Past Student/Parent race was a highlight again this year, but the student’s behaviour and Team Spirit were what truly stood out on the evening.

Well done to Neesha Bateson for organising a magnificent Twilight Sports again, we are lucky to have you as our amazing PE Teacher!

Congratulations to Blue House on their Victory for 2016 and the Captains Marcus and Seemona. We look forward to seeing some new challengers next year!!!
St Mary's News
Term 4 Issue 38

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.

Fees
Fees are now overdue. Please contact Mr White immediately if you are experiencing difficulties paying your fees.

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

The second hand uniform shop will be open next on:
Monday 5th December @ 9am

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

Found!
One camera. Please come to the Office.

Head Lice!
We have had a couple of cases reported to the Office. Please check your child’s hair and apply the treatment if necessary. Often more than one treatment is required to make sure they are all gone. Girls should have their tied back.

To welcome the bodily presence of St Josephine Bakhita to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the South Sudanese community will be celebrating special community Masses of Welcome

- Sunday, 27 November 2016, 2.00 pm
  St Andrew’s Church, 105 Greaves Road North, Werribee
- Sunday, 4 December 2016, 10.30 am
  St Mary’s Church, 160 Foster Street, Dandenong
- Sunday, 4 December 2016, 2.30 pm
  St Anthony’s Church, 90 Buckley Street, Noble Park
- Sunday, 11 December 2016, 3.00 pm
  Holy Eucharist Church, 1A O’Leander Drive, St Albans South

The First Class relic of St Josephine Bakhita was gifted by the Canossian sisters to Fr Laudu Yanga upon his ordination in Brisbane in 2013. He has generously donated it to the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be placed in the new altar of St Mary’s Church, Dandenong, when it is consecrated next year.