Dear Parents

Harmony Day Twilight School
Friday 18th March 11.30am - 6.30pm

We will be having our special Harmony Day Twilight School on Friday March 18th as part of Harmony Week celebrations. Children will be required to come to school at 11.30am and then remain at school until 6.30pm. Late in the afternoon families will be invited to the school for various activities, including a special family event. The Before School Care Program will be open from 7.00am until 11.30am to assist parents with childcare needs.

More details about this event will come out in the next 2 weeks.

Leader Badges Presentation

Congratulations to all the recently elected school leaders in the Year 6. One of our parish leaders Deacon George will present all Year 6 elected leaders with their Leadership badge at this week’s Friday assembly at 2.40pm. All parents, and particularly Year 6 parents, are invited to attend.

Learning Circles - Thursdays @ 3.25pm - 3.45pm

I encourage parents to attend with their children the “Learning Circle” every Thursday afternoon at 3.25pm in the Family Space. Each week a staff member will lead you and your child through interesting and fun activities that can be done at home.

Volunteers for Breakfast Club

We are looking for volunteers to help supervise a breakfast club that we hope to start up in the near future. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who is interested please contact Stephanie Meade or myself.

After School Sports – Extra Curricula Sporting Activities

Just a reminder that every Monday for Prep to Year 2 children and Wednesday for Year 3 to Year 6 children, there are free fun and enjoyable sporting activities run from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Over the next few weeks the children have an opportunity to have tennis lessons with our tennis coach Wanda (who in her earlier years played international tennis for Australia).

Junior Playground next to the School Auditorium

Please note that children are not permitted to use the Junior Playground next to the School Auditorium before school. However, children are permitted to use this playground for a short period after school, only under the direct and strict supervision of their parents.

Fr Declan away in Ireland visiting his sick mother

Fr Declan will be away from the parish over the next 3 weeks visiting his sick mother in Ireland, who very recently suffered a stroke. Our students wrote many cards of well wishes to Fr Declan and his mother. Please remember Fr Declan’s mother and all other sick parishioners in your prayers and thoughts.

Birthdays:

23rd Simar
24th Fiona
24th Albert
25th Angelina
25th Tyree
28th Aljack
28th Chanel
28th Sabren
Safe Bus Bay Parking (New St) and Safe Parking in the School Playground (McCrae St)

Please remember the Bus Bay outside the School in New Street should only be used as a drop off and pickup point for cars. **The driver should remain in the car at all times.** The maximum time allowed to stay in the parking bay is 5 minutes. Drivers not following these Council Rules and Regulations may risk the chance of receiving a fine from the City of Greater Dandenong. Please note that a Bi-Laws Officer from the City Of Greater Dandenong Council, from time to time, visits the School to note any traffic and parking offences. **Under no circumstances are you to leave your car unattended in this area.**

Your patience and care is also requested when parking in the school yard before and after school (McCrae Street Entrance). In order to avoid congestion and confusion parents are requested not to park in areas that are needed to maintain the flow of traffic. There are clearly marked yellow lines that indicate the flow of traffic. There are many cars in a confined area for short periods before and after school, so please be careful, patient and mindful of children and other adults in this area.

Please remember that the safety of all St Mary’s Community members, as well as visitors to the school, is paramount.

Have a great week.

Greg White, Principal

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Welcome to a great year in ‘Sport and Activity’

I am very pleased to announce that St Mary’s has entered the Premier’s ‘ACTIVE APRIL’ Challenge.

Every day in April the children are encouraged to be ‘active’ for 30 minutes. Your child’s class will have an activity tracker to track their progress.

Registration for the ACTIVE APRIL challenge is ‘free’ and every person who registers gets a prize. Parents are invited to register with St Mary’s and be active with their child(ren) for 30 minutes per day during the month of April.

Teachers at St Mary’s are joining in the challenge to make it a real community event and to help your child achieve the 30 minutes activity each day.

The types of activities are listed on the attached brochure. Let’s get behind this great cause and improve our overall health and fitness for the month of April. Activity time is not limited to school, it can be done at home.

More information of how to register will be in next week’s newsletter. Stay tuned for more details....

From the Sports Desk
Neesha Bateson

Nbateson@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au
Learning Circle
This Week
Thursday in the Family Space
3.25pm – 3.45pm

Maths Games with Dice

Come along with your family and learn some maths games you can play at home with the whole family!

FREE giveaways!!
Second Hand Uniform Shop

Tina Congues runs our Second Hand Uniform Shop, every second Monday at 9am in the Family Space.

We are have lots of school jumpers, pants, shorts and tops in stock.

All items sell for $5.

We are in need of donations of school dresses, summer and winter, in all sizes.

School Contacts
Principal: Mr Greg White  Deputy Principal: Mr Terry Gardiner
School Secretaries: Mrs Sandra Higginbotham, Mrs Jane Merchant and Mrs Anissa Benson
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.

The second hand uniform shop will be open next on: Monday 7th March @ 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: Cathy Buchanan, Victor Brillantes, Chris Yugusuk

Fees
2016 Fee Statement and payment structure went home last week.
If you have not received yours please check your child’s school bag.
Term 1 fees are due on the 18th March 2016.