Dear Parents,

**Sad News**

Sadly Ricky Taylor, a former student of St Mary's School, and up to recently in Year 12 at St John’s College, died over the weekend after a short illness. Our prayers and thoughts are with Ricky’s family and friends at this very distressing time.

**School Review**

Our school is currently undergoing a School Review process. This occurs in all Catholic schools every 4 years. The process combines a structural approach to internal school improvement planning with a component of external assessment and accountability. Yesterday at our school closure day our staff were very heavily involved in evaluating all aspects of school life over the last 4 years.

At St. Mary’s we will be reflecting on school life in the light of our School’s Vision and the five spheres of –

- **Education in Faith**
- **Teaching and Learning**
- **Student Well Being**
- **Leadership and Management**
- **School Community**

The previous aims of the school are being revisited and achievements acknowledged. Data and evidence is currently being gathered to evaluate our school’s progress and then set goals for future achievements. What the community values about our school is also being investigated. You may recall all school families were invited to complete a very comprehensive survey about the school late in 3rd term and over 100 families took part. The high response rate to the survey was a very pleasing outcome. Overall the parent survey gave a very positive outlook about the school. The main aim of the survey was to identify the strengths and areas for improvement in the school. Further information about the School Review process will be shared with the school community over the coming weeks. I am looking forward to working with all families in this important area of review, reflection and evaluation of our school’s operations.

**Toddlers Music Group**

Just a reminder that our Performing Arts Teacher, Gary Pearl, is running a fantastic toddlers music program every Thursday morning from 8.45 to 9.30am in the Music Room (next to the Auditorium). This free music program is open to all pre-school aged children and their parents or guardians.

**Harmony Day Twilight School**

We will be having a special Harmony Day Twilight School on Friday March 20th 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.

Have a great week, Greg White, Principal
Learning about children 100 years ago!

This term the children in Prep have been exploring what it was like to be a child 100 years ago! This is because St Mary’s is focusing on the centenary year of the ANZACS.

The children have played with toys, sung songs, and dressed up like children 100 years ago in Australia.

By Prep B
Our school year has truly begun.
This year's Sacramental dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrament</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Friday 19th June, 7pm</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>Thursday, 13th August, 7pm</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Saturday 14th November, 7pm</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 15th November, 10:30am</td>
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If your child is receiving any of these Sacraments, please ensure you have completed all documentation and handed it into the Parish.
I look forward to working with all the families of St. Mary's.
Yours in Christ,
Amerall Blom

Do you enjoy singing?
Come and be part of our great choir!
Choir Practice:
Tuesdays Lunchtime
In the Music Room
Our Reading Room

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO COME AND HELP!!

We are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8:45-10:00am in the Family Space

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles please come and enjoy reading and playing word games with our children.

We are very short of helpers at the moment so please come along and help us!

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.

St Mary’s Parish Education Board
Chairperson: Father Declan O’Brien  Parish Pastoral Associate: Mrs Cate Kavanagh  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: Miss Cathy Buchanan, Victor Brillantes, Chris Yugusuk
St John’s School Board Representative: Mrs Kerry Cronjaeger

School Fees
Term 1 fees are due by the 20th March 2015.  If you have any queries regarding your fees please contact Mr Greg White.