March
Thurs 10th @ 3.25pm
Circle Time
Fri 11th @ 11am
House Cross Country
Fri 11th @ 2.40pm
Assembly 3/4 Community
Mon 14th
Labour Day Holiday
No School
Wed 16th
Preps at school fulltime
Thurs 17th
St Patrick’s Day Mass
Thurs 17th @ 8.50am & 3.25pm
“Storytime with the Principal” (incorporated in Circle Time)
Fri 18th @ 11.30am
Harmony Day
11.30am School Starts
3pm Family Activities
4.45pm Parents collect children for a dance and a sausage sizzle and the Easter Raffle draw
6.30pm Evening
Concludes
Mon 21st @ 9.15am
Class Mass 3/4 Nevins & 1/2 Prince

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents

Learning Circles - Thursdays @ 3.25pm - 3.45pm
I encourage parents to attend the “Learning Circle” with their children 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. We’re hoping to see lots of children and parents there! This week Steph Meade (one of our prep teachers) will be running a session on how to read with your child at home.

House Cross Country - Friday March 11th @ 11am
We are holding the House Cross Country Championships this coming Friday from 11.00am to 1.00pm on the school oval and yard. All children from Prep to Year 6 will be involved in this event. The children may wear their house color t-shirt and sports uniform on the day and parents are very welcome to attend the event.

“Storytime with the Principal” - Thursday March 17th
All school parents, as well as parents with their pre-schoolers, are invited to attend the second “Storytime with the Principal” for the year, on Thursday next week at 8.50am and also in the afternoon at 3.25pm. I welcome your school aged children to attend the new 3.25pm session with you. At “Storytime with the Principal”, I will be reading a popular picture story book. I am currently reading this book to all children across the school and they are also doing activities with their class teacher and myself related to the book. The activities include work on understanding Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and in particular, the competency of Self Awareness. At “Storytime with the Principal”, I will be giving some advice on how to further instill a love of reading with your children. All parents attending will receive a copy of the picture book to take home and share with your family. I hope you can support this event with your attendance.

2017 Prep Enrolments
Enrolments for Prep 2017 school year have now opened. If you or a friend has a child who turns five years old by April 30th, 2017, they are eligible to enrol their child at St Mary’s School. Please collect an enrolment form from the School Office by Friday May 27th.

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 via the school office.

School Fee Accounts
All families should have received their School Fee Accounts for Term I. Please ensure prompt payment by Thursday March 18th unless other payment arrangements have been made.

Have a great week.
Greg White, Principal
Harmony Day 2016: Our Diversity is Our Strength - Friday March 18th

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect and celebration of diversity. Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world and we each make up the pages of the bigger Australian Story that we share today. Our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational.

To help celebrate Harmony Day we are having Twilight School and are asking that the children come to school in their “National Costume” representing the many colours and cultures of our School Community.

If your child does not have a national costume we ask that they be dressed in the Harmony Day colour of “Orange”.

A timetable of the day is as follows:

11:30am: School begins- students line up in the Quadrangle for flag raising. Please stay for the assembly and the opening parade in the Quadrangle. Then, after assembly, we would be grateful if you could stay and help us set up for the day. We need as many parents as possible to bring out tables and cover them with decorations. Children are to bring their lunch to school. The canteen will not be open for lunch orders. Throughout the afternoon all children will be entertained and will practice their dance steps in preparation for the evening Family Dance, with our special dance artist Maria Keilty from the dance company “I Can Dance”. Maria will be teaching the children various cultural dances to be performed later in the evening.

3:00pm: All parents/families are invited to come along and work with your children in a family group to make family flags or buntings. You will be pasting on pictures, drawing borders and decorations using cultural colours.

4:00pm: Harmony Day Prayer Service, in the Auditorium

4:45pm: Students dismissed from their classrooms. All children will be dismissed from their class at 4.45pm and then be supervised by their parents for the Family Dinner and Dance.

5:00pm: Dinner and Dance to begin in the Quadrangle. Please remember to bring your own picnic dinner. The Parents and Friends Association have organised a Sausage Sizzle. Order forms were sent home last this week. If you need another form, please collect one from the Office. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Quadrangle (or in the Auditorium if the weather is unsuitable). The Canteen will be open to sell snacks and drinks only.

6.30pm: Conclusion of Harmony Day.

Before the day.... Can you please help your children to copy or print a small photo of their family. Also, can you help them to gather a few fabrics and paper scraps to cut out pictures of their families favourite foods, their pets, a picture of their home country’s flag etc...
We got into groups and started working on our persuasive text – Nemesia
We learnt how different people work – Albert & Ricky W.
I learned about the movie - Angel
We got to know new people – Rehmat

We have been working hard on our persuasive text – Loteka
Children should play games so they can be heroes – Marten
Children should play games to be helpful to other people - Jason
Children should play games so they can learn to be positive – Ricky B.

I felt like we were one unstoppable team and I enjoyed working with them – Alex
I think people should be smart and people can use math and be a scientist – Jeremy
I felt like we had a lot of fun and had good teamwork - Aon
All children should play games – Nirujan

We have been learning about hand plans and mind maps – Michelle
I think children should not go to sleep late because they will feel tired at school – Amarpreet
Children should not sleep late because they will feel angry – Simren
Children should not go to sleep late. They will feel worried for no reason – Navneet
I enjoyed writing with my group - Abouk

I learnt about team work- Medi
I had fun with my group - Ronalda
If you sleep late it is not good for your mind – Allister
Never sleep late because your mind will be tired – Preston
I had fun working with my friends and I got to type -Akim
House Cross Country
Friday 11th March

Friday 11th March is the HOUSE Cross Country event

Every child will be running

WEAR: runners, sports uniform, T-shirt in your house colour
Children must bring a water and asthma puffer (if asthmatic)

Parents and family are welcome to come and watch

Please ask your child’s classroom teacher for race times

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

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 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 on the 9th February. Term 1 fees are due on the 18th March 2016.

Enrolments
Enrolments for the Prep 2016 school year are open. If you or a friend has a child who turns five years old by April 30th, 2016, they are eligible to be considered for enrolment at St Mary’s.