Dear Parents

Principal's Message

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new School Term. I hope your family enjoyed the Easter break and found time to celebrate the real significance of the Risen Lord and its meaning for us in everyday life.

Prayers and Condolences

Our prayers and thoughts are with Rose Stapleton who received the sad news that her mum passed away in India during the Easter holidays. Also just prior to the Easter break another staff member Jo Cowan’s father-in-law sadly passed away. Please keep Rose and Jo and their families in your prayers and thoughts at this very sad and difficult time for them.

Parents & Friends AGM - Monday 18th April @ 9.15am

The P&F Committee would like to welcome all parents to come along to their Annual General Meeting this week in the Family Space. The P&F do some great work around the school, including different fundraising activities, special themed lunches, help with the Graduation celebrations, raffles, etc. If you would like to join the committee and make some friends in the process, please come along this week.

“Storytime with the Principal” - Thursday April 21st

The next “Storytime with the Principal” will be held next week on Thursday April 21st at 8.50am in the Italian/ICT Room in the Junior Corridor and 3.25pm in the Family Space. This is a special ANZAC “Storytime with the Principal” where I will be reading a beautiful Australian children’s picture story book called “Gallipoli”.

Remember parents or other adult family members attending will take home a free copy of the book to share with the whole family. I hope to see you there next week.

Mothers Day Breakfast - Friday May 6th

All mums are invited to our annual Mothers Day Breakfast to be held on Friday, May 6th at 7.45am in the School Auditorium. We invite all mothers and their children to share a breakfast together with the Staff of St Mary’s. An invitation will be sent home very soon to assist us with catering arrangements. Please return this form to your child’s teacher by Friday April 29th.

2016 Prep Enrolments

Enrolments for Prep 2016 school year have now opened. If you or a friend has a child who turns five years old by April 30th, 2016, they are eligible to enrol their child at St Mary’s School. Please collect an enrolment form from the School Office by June, 19th 2015.
Free After School Sports Activities Begin Next Week:
The Active After School Sports program will continue to run this term from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on
Mondays (Prep, Year 1 and 2) and
Wednesdays (Year 3,4,5, and 6)
The program begins again next Monday April 18th and Wednesday April 20th. Please note both After
School Hours programs are free and provide a great opportunity for your child to be involved in an extra
curricula activity that keeps them fit and involved in sporting activities. This term we will be playing
soccer and basketball.

Dandenong Tutoring Program - Saturday Mornings 9.30am - 12.30pm
I again strongly recommend the Dandenong Tutoring Program, which runs every Saturday morning in the
St Mary’s School Auditorium from 9.30am to 12.30pm for any student in Year 3,4,5 and 6. It is also
available to high school students from Year 7 to Year 12.
This program attracts many students from 64 local schools in Dandenong and neighbouring suburbs and is a free service offered by the St Vincent de Paul Society. The volunteers are experienced tutors and
skilful in working with school children from Year 3 to Year 12. The tutors work with either 1, 2 or 3 children at a time and assist children in many areas including support for their homework and improving
literacy and numeracy skills. Any child attending this program would find it very helpful.
We are so lucky to have this service operating out of our school premises and I highly recommend it to
our school community. Enrolment forms are available at the school office or you can just come along at 9.30am on a Saturday morning and ask to speak to the Program Coordinator, Maddie.
Take care and enjoy the remainder of the week.
Greg White, Principal

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now open and St Mary’s is excited to be participating again.
The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to 16 years in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by the closing date of the challenge.
Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or ‘experience’ 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

If you would like your child to participate, please return the form sent home yesterday.
All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll.
For more information about the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge and to view the booklists, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc
If you have any queries please see Mrs Jo Cowan (jcowan@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au)
And keep watching the count of participants and books in the Office foyer. Happy reading!
Welcome back to Term 2!!!! We hope you had a fantastic holiday break together as a family enjoying the Holy Season of Easter. Term 1 whipped by us so fast and we accomplished so much. The children made a great start to the school year and were well settled in to what they were doing in class early on. Term 2 promises to be an equally exciting term with lots of wonderful learning on which to focus.

Some important things to remember in relation to being school-ready is to make sure that:

⇒ You have a good night sleep, primary school children need lots and lots of sleep.
⇒ You don't take a tablet or a device to bed, your brain needs to turn off and settle down so that you can sleep!
⇒ You drink water or milk before bedtime, no soft drinks or juice. The sugar content in these drinks is very high, which can make it hard to settle into good sleeping patterns.
⇒ You have a good breakfast in the morning. Nothing to eat or a glass of milk is not enough. Your body and your brain need good energy to start the day and to help you learn. Cereal or toast don’t take long to make and are a delicious breakfast!
⇒ Read every night or in the morning. Sometimes it can be hard to read at night because there is so much going on. Sometimes it is easier to read a book over breakfast. If you have the TV on in the morning, try a week where you don’t have it turned on and see if it makes the mornings a little bit easier. Reading in the morning helps your brain kick into gear and gets you ready for learning.

School is a fantastic opportunity for everyone in the community to learn and to be their best. Make sure you give yourself every opportunity to succeed!!!

Terry Gardiner - Deputy Principal
ICT/Learning & Teaching Leader

This year children in Year 5 & 6 were invited to join the Glockenspiel Band. Many eager students attended the first season and we now have 32 permanent members. Their enthusiasm and punctuality have been most pleasing.

The challenge of learning new songs each week has been readily accepted. In addition to the musical side of things we also do something unusual with the children. They have received a “band buddy” from St Anthony’s School in Alphington. The link will peak with a concert involving both bands in November at the St Mary’s Auditorium. The principals of both school have provided the opportunity and funding for this most exciting cultural exchange. We have estimated that over 52 countries of origin are represented by the 66 children involved.

A harmonious time for all.
Gary Pearl - Performing Arts Teacher
**Free Tutoring and Homework Help**

St Vincent de Paul Society run a free tutoring program for students from EAL, refugee & new arrival backgrounds.

- **When:** Saturday mornings during the school term from 9.30am till 12.30pm
- **Where:** St Mary's Primary School Auditorium
- **Cost:** FREE

Application Forms are available from the Office or you can just come along on the day. A parent or guardian must come along to enrol a student.

If you would like to speak to someone for more information please contact Michelle on 0488 363 359

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**Head Lice**

Head Lice has visited our 1/2 area!

Please check your children’s hair and treat them if necessary.

It takes more than one treatment to ensure all the eggs are gone. It is a good idea to put conditioner in their hair every second night and comb it through to catch any eggs that have hatched since the treatment.

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**School Contacts**

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<th>Principal:</th>
<th>Mr Greg White</th>
<th>Deputy Principal:</th>
<th>Mr Terry Gardiner</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Secretaries:</td>
<td>Mrs Sandra Higginbotham, Mrs Jane Merchant and Mrs Anissa Benson</td>
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<td>School Office Hours:</td>
<td>8.30am - 4.15pm</td>
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<td>Phone:</td>
<td>9791-7650</td>
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<td>Fax:</td>
<td>9792-4827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au">principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au">www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Uniform Shop:</td>
<td>The Uniform Shop is open each Thursday 8.30am –10.00am.</td>
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**The second hand uniform shop will be open next on:**

- Monday 21st March @ 9am.

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**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

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**Fees**

2016 Fee Statement and payment structure went home on the 9th February. Term 1 fees are due on the 18th March 2016.

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**Enrolments**

Enrolments for the Prep 2017 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.