



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 1 Issue 2

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Dear Families,

Straight into it!

Opening of the School Year Commissioning Mass

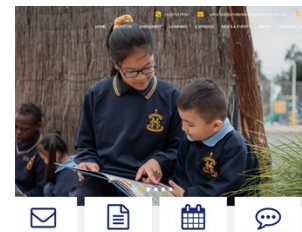
Our Commissioning Mass last Friday was simply beautiful. It was a magnificent first whole school Mass and I was very impressed with the reverence that the children showed. They truly understand the dignity and respect of being part of the celebration of the Mass and whole school Masses are a beautiful opportunity for us to celebrate the life and the word of Jesus - the Son of God - as a Community. The ever-expanding choir sang as if their Hearts Were on Fire, just like the opening hymn, and I was proud to stand amongst the staff as we pledged ourselves to the service of the Community. Congratulations to Bryan Handasyde for a beautiful Mass as our Religious Education Leader.

Parking Fines - WATCH OUT!!!

We had an unfortunate event occur last week where one of our families parked out the front of the school in the bus stop for only two minutes. There was a Parking Inspector waiting and watching and a fine was issued for being in a No Parking Zone. **There is nothing we can do as a school to stop a fine once it is issued** because it is a council issue - unfortunately, we have no control of the space outside the school.

New Website - Updates Regularly!!!

We launched our wonderful new website last week at Assembly and have had some positive feedback since! Jump online and have a look - www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au - you can have a scroll through some of the content which will be regularly updated by us here at school!



St John's Commissioning of Student Leaders for 2020

This morning Yvette Silva and I went along to the St John's Commissioning of their School Leaders for 2020. It was with great pleasure that we watched as three of the four Student Leaders for the school: College Captains - Tofy, Akim and Vice Captain Chester - were past students from St Mary's. We were also very proud to see so many St Mary's past students amongst those recognised in the Achievement Awards given to students who scored best in their VCE subject for 2019. I sat amongst the many as a very proud Principal! Great to see so many of our students go on to make the most of such wonderful opportunities!



Hope you have a great week, Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

I was talking to my daughter about the book she was reading the other day and she said, "Dad...its a book about Anti-Gravity...I just can't put it down!!!"

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!

February

Tues 11th 5.30 - 7pm

Prep, 1 & 2 Gathering

Wed 12th

No Preps at school

Thurs 13th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Thurs 13th 3.30 - 4.30pm

5/6 Community gathering

Fri 14th @ 2.40pm

Whole school assembly

Mon 17th 9 - 11am

Playgroup in the

Auditorium

Mon 17th

Life Ed Van here for the week - Parent session 9am

Mon 17th @ 3.30 - 4.30pm

FREE Tennis

Tues 18th @ 9.15am

Class Mass - 5/6

Community

Wed 19th

No Preps at school

Birthdays

11th Shamira

11th Charlis

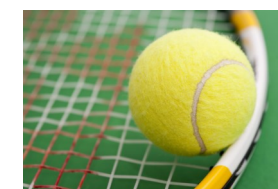
11th Matthew

12th Ricky

13th Hari

16th Hashmeet

16th Fufu



FREE

Tennis Lessons Monday afternoons in the Auditorium 3.30 - 4.30pm

First Day for Prep/1 Canty and Swan

**I liked making friends and people
being kind. Eve**



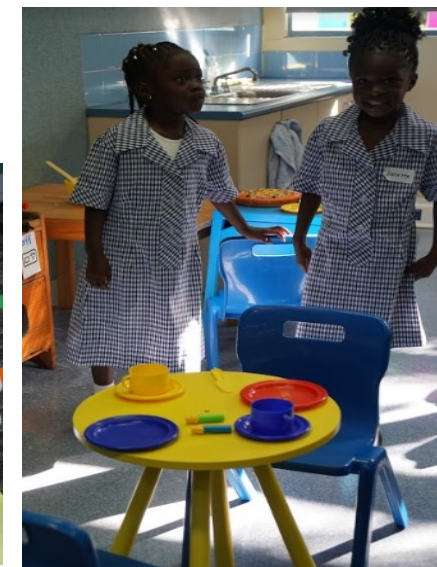
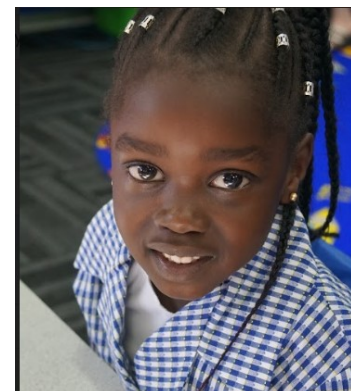
**The lego blocks were good.
Joffrey**



**I liked playing in the adventure
playground. Lourdes**

I liked everything. Luka

**It was fun playing with the play
dough and making things in the
kitchen. Chelsea**



Life Education Van - Next Week



From Monday 17th February to Thursday 20th of February all students will be visiting the Life Education Van. Here is what each level will be learning about...

Prep/1	Harold's Friendship explores the qualities of a good friend, feelings and emotions, early warning signs, and safe and unsafe situations.
Year 2	Safety rules investigates safety in a range of situations and environments, people and places to go to for help, and how friends can care for and support each other. .
Year 3/4	Mind Your Medicine helps children to explore medicines, how they can help and affect the body and why some people need them
Year 5/6	Relate Respect Connect explores building positive, safe and respectful relationships. It equips students with knowledge, skills and strategies to help them develop safe and respectful relationships - face to face and online.

PARENT SESSION

There will be a parent session between
9 to 9.30 am on Monday 17th of February.

Please come and join us.

The session will provide parents with information about what the students will be learning in the Life Ed Van, as well as some tips and advice to help your children make safer and healthier choices in their lives.



School Banking is starting again this

Wednesday

If you would like to join in, simply go online to the Commonwealth Bank and open a school banking account for your child.

Do you have a Health Care Card?

This year we have a new fee structure and are offering a **\$600 discount** to families with a valid HCC.

You must present your card to the Office to receive the discount, preferably by the end of Term 1.

The CSEF is also continuing this year which means eligible families will also receive the \$125 payment off their school fees.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Dandenong Tutoring Program - through St Vincent de Paul

FREE homework help and help with English language for students in Primary & Secondary school every Saturday morning during the school term.

Anyone is welcome to come along from 10am to 12pm in the St Mary's Auditorium.

If it's your first time, please come 15 minutes early to register.

Fees

Fee statements were sent home last week.

School Contacts

Principal: **Mr Terry Gardiner** Deputy Principal: **Mr Bryan Handasyde**

Family Engagement Leader: **Mrs Yvette Silva**

School Secretaries: **Ms Sandra Higginbotham, Ms Jane Merchant**

School Office Hours: **8.30am - 4.15pm**

Phone: **9791-7650**

Email: **principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au** Website: **www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: **Fr Brendan Lane**

Parish Office: **9791 4611**

Pastoral Associate: **Kathy Gottliebsen**