



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 1 Issue 3

Tuesday 18th February 2020

Dear Families,

Over the last few weeks, the Leadership Team have been honing our Annual Action Plan so that our focus as a school is really sharp and understood by the staff. It is also really important that we share our goals with you as a Community - after all...it is your school! Through the new development process we have arrived at three specific areas of focus for 2020, and they are:

- To ensure deep learning of both staff, students and community based on explicit analysis, synthesis and communication of targeted data which will result in improved student outcomes for all
- To build staff capacity based on reflective practice using data, research and evidence to learn together to ensure a positive impact on students
- To embed personalised learning and celebrate the diversity of all learners through developing their self-efficacy and agency, inspired by the Gospel and lead by the Holy Spirit to act for justice and the common good

If you have any questions about what it all means or how we arrived at those areas as our specific focus, don't hesitate to come and speak to anyone on Leadership! We always love a chat about our school!

3 Way Conversations - School Finishes @ 12.30pm on Monday

Don't forget to get online and book in your time/s with your child's teacher. We encourage you to bring your children along as well, after all...they are the subject of the conversation!

Family Gatherings

It was lovely to be part (2 out of 3) of the family gatherings for 2020. There is always something that we pick up as a school and it gives us a great opportunity to meet with the families and make those connections. It's also one of our favourite things to see the families connecting with each other and the children playing together. Thanks for your time and effort to get along to these celebrations. It's lovely to see the community connection alive and well at St Mary's. Thanks so much to all of the staff who stayed behind and gave of their time to be part of the celebrations, I love seeing how you all value this as an important part of family engagement. A special thanks to Yvette Silva for her first foray in as our Family Engagement in Learning Leader.

Attendance - A focus for 2020!

This year, we are going to really focus on school attendance. As you would be aware, we celebrate the attendance of children with an exemplary record, and this year, we want to take it a step further. Our data tells us that we have far too many children coming to school late, whether that be a few minutes or longer. The first part of the day is SO important in setting the learning focus for the day, and if children miss that, it often takes them a little bit of time to get into the swing of things. **Please make the effort to get your children inside the school gates by 8:45am, as the learning begins at 8.50am sharp!**

Hope you have a great week, Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

What do you call somebody with no body and no nose?

I don't know, What do you call somebody with no body and no nose?

Nobody knows!!!!

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



February

Wed 19th

No Preps at school

Thurs 20th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Thurs 20th 9.15am

St John's Open Day

Fri 21st 2.40pm

Whole School Assembly -

5/6 Leadership

Mon 24th 9 - 11am

Playgroup with Anna

Mon 24th @ 12.30pm

School Finishes for

3 Way Conversations

Tues 25th 3.30 - 4.30pm

Free Tennis lessons

Wed 26th

No preps at school

Wed 26th 9.15am

Ash Wednesday Mass

Thurs 27th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Fri 28th 9am - 2pm

Year 3 - 6

House Athletics

Fri 28th 2.40pm

Whole School Assembly -

Year 2C



FREE

Tennis Lessons

Tuesday

next week because of
3 Way Conversations

Reconciliation



This term the **Year 3** children are preparing to make their Reconciliation for the first time.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates the healing power of Jesus. Through Reconciliation we receive God's forgiveness. Forgiveness requires being sorry for the mistakes that we have made. In Reconciliation we receive Jesus' healing grace through absolution by the priest.

"Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive".
(Pope Francis)



The forgiveness of sins involves four parts:

Contrition: A sincere sorrow for having offended God, and a firm resolve not to repeat our sin.

Confession: Confronting our sins in a profound way to God by speaking them aloud to the priest.

Penance: An important part of our healing is the penance the priest gives us in reparation for our sins.

Absolution: The priest speaks the words by which we are reconciled to God and are absolved from our sins.

Please keep our students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your prayers this term.

If there are any families with students in Years 4- 6 who would like to make their Reconciliation this term please contact the office.

Blessings,

Bryan Handasyde (Religious Education Leader)



St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

Open Morning

Thursday 20 February 9.15am

www.trybooking.com/BALBU

5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong

for further information please visit www.sjrc.vic.edu.au

Reading is Fun at St Marys!

Your child should be bringing home readers and/or library books by now.

You make a difference to your children's reading journey and we encourage you to read with your child daily.

It is the joy and love of sharing a good book on a nightly basis that sets helps children set up positive reading habits.

Reading regularly with someone who cares is the inspiration that all readers deserve.

Here are some tips for home reading

- ◆ Establish a home reading routine. Read aloud with your children everyday. Ten minutes for each child around a book of his/her choice. If English is your second language, read in your home language. If you lack confidence in reading aloud, the fact that you are reading with your child is what matters. Talk about the illustrations and contribute where you can. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.
- ◆ During home reading time, turn off electronic devices and give each child ten minutes of your undivided attention
- ◆ If reading time is stressful, move the reading to a new location. Instead of sitting at the kitchen bench, move to the lounge room floor, or go outside and sit under a tree.
- ◆ Find a reading time that works for your family. Limit the time and set the timer if reading in the past has always been difficult. It is better to have an enjoyable 10 minutes than a laborious 30 minutes where everyone is left feeling frustrated.
- ◆ At the end of the 10 minutes, ask questions that encourage discussion, for example: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? What did you think about that setting? What do you like/ dislike about this book?
- ◆ If your child is reading independently and has reached the level of chapter books, it is not necessary for you to read aloud together any more. Your job is done. That is not to say, you cannot continue to share reading time because it is what you love to do as a family or that you sit and read silently together or that you talk about the books your child is reading because you are interested in their reading choices. Readers read differently in their heads as compared to reading aloud.
- ◆ Visit the local library — make it a family ritual on a set day every week. Let your children select their books while you select books you are interested in reading. Not every book has to be read cover to cover. Your child might select books based on illustrations or factual information about a topic of interest.

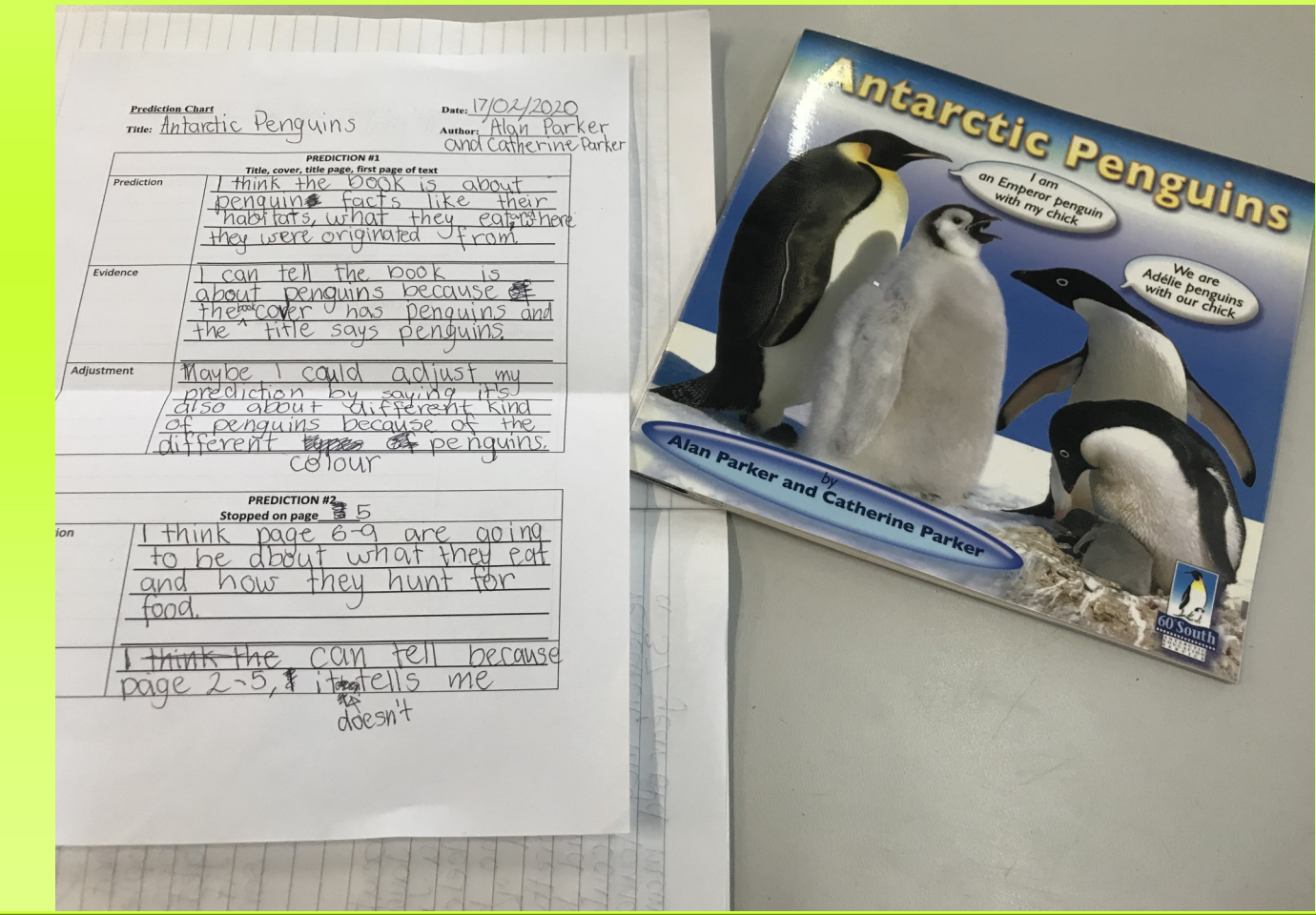
If you have any questions about reading with your child please feel free to come and chat to me , Rena Walsh
rwalsh@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au
 or your child's classroom teacher.

Happy Reading!



This Week in 5/6 MG

This week we have been working on our predictions. We have been studying the front covers, and first couple of chapters of our reading books and making predictions and providing reasons for them. This is something you could do at home. It is vital for the children to develop these skills, especially the reasoning and the gathering of evidence to support their opinions.



Fees

Term 1 fees are due on 13th March unless you are paying by direct debit.

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**