MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first edition of our School Newsletter for 2017. I hope you all enjoyed a great break with family and friends over the summer and that you and the children are feeling refreshed and ready for what promises to be a most exciting and action packed year.

In some of the concluding editions of this newsletter in 2016 I indicated to you that we are very excited about a number of initiatives that will be implemented in 2017 including our Year 3-6 Chromebook Program, the Maths Project, Inquiry Learning, as well as our work on Review. This is to say nothing about other school initiatives that will be continued from last year and the incredibly exciting social calendar that is so well supported by our Parents Committee. So, I was particularly thrilled as some of these initiatives got underway this week and others will commence within the next couple of weeks. This is a tribute to the unending and exceptional commitment of our wonderful staff and I thank and congratulate them for the inspiring work that they do in our school.

We also enjoyed a little fun as part of our preparation on Tuesday and I encourage you to chat with the staff about their game prowess and competitive endeavours.

UPCOMING DATES

FEBRUARY

6th  Welcome Liturgy 2:45
7th  Art Excursion Gd 4-6
8th  Foundation Parent Info. Evening
9th  Parent Teacher Meet and Greet
     1:30 to 7:30
10th Grades 3-6 Hockey clinics
     Grade 6 Super Speak Program
12th Family Cricket Day
13th First Reconciliation registration
     closes
15th Foundation Rest Day
17th Monsignor Stuart Hall Arrives
22nd Foundation Rest Day
23rd Reconciliation Information Night
24th PC Summer Drinks
25th Working Bee 3-5pm
     Enrolment Mass for First Reconciliation
27th Dendy Swimming Squad Gds 3-6
The level of excitement exhibited by all the children as they returned for the first day of the new school year was palpable the moment I walked out on duty yesterday morning. Incredibly, this was also reflected by our two new classes of Foundation children who all became engaged without a moment’s hesitation in the myriad of activities that were prepared for them by Mrs White and Ms Laker.

On this first day of 2017 we also enjoyed a wonderful Welcome Morning Tea coordinated for us by Suzanne Carroll and Kaz Cullinan of our Parent’s Committee.

I am delighted to tell you that Ms Claire Smith had a baby boy - William Eric Sebastian Bucello. William was born on the 20 December weighing 4.64kg. Ms Smith enjoyed visiting us at school today with Baby William and celebrating her wonderful news with us all and even came back this afternoon to participate in some professional learning about our Chromebooks.

In attempting to keep on the front foot with all the different events that are already underway and other future events including our annual Family Cricket Day on Sunday 12 February I encourage you to read the letter sent home to all families from our teachers, and keep a close watch on the school calendar as well as the regular feed that comes to you on Konnective.

Next week I will include some important recommendations for you about routines.

In the meantime I hope you have a most enjoyable first week back at school and wish you a fabulous year of school here at St Mary’s.

Shane Tobin
Principal
The St Mary's Parish Education Advisory Board (PEAB) AGM was held on 6 December 2016 and saw former Chair, Luke Kenealy, former Secretary, Caroline Redman and former General Member, Michael Elsworth farewelled. We thank each for their valuable commitment, insight and contribution to the PEAB over many years.

Elections of Office Bearers also took place and your PEAB members are:
Chair: Sophia Ziebell-Barnes
Vice Chair: Mark Gustincic
Secretary: Sarah Flanigan
Leadership Representative: Sharon Daujat
P & F Representative: Sally Sutherland
General Members: Simon Wilson, Lynton Head-Wilson and Ben Hall
The Parish Representative will be determined at a later time.

In 2017, St Mary's PEAB will strive to continue providing inspiration, leadership, informed advice and support to our parish priest and principal with a view to assisting them in realising the vision of St Mary's school as a strong, dynamic, high-achieving, caring, Catholic community.

On behalf of the PEAB, we wish you a wonderful 2017.

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**St Mary’s Premier League 4 – Sunday 12th February 8.30am – 9pm**

It’s the time of year again, we have all watched the Test series, drooled over the Big Bash and thought to ourselves, I could have done better than that.

Its back, bigger and better than ever with 10 teams over two grounds. We have been lucky enough to secure Eric Raven and TH King which are premier grounds in the South Eastern suburbs.

There will be a BBQ running all day, a lamb spit and the bar will open from 1pm.

If you would like to be involved but can’t play, contact Ben Hall or Matt TEIXEIRA to assist with the Bar, BBQ or general running around.
PRESIDENTS WELCOME

Its 2017!! (very aware that we’ve known this for 33 days now, but roll with me here....)

On behalf of the Parent’s Committee (PC – formerly known as the P&F, but more about that in just a sec); I would like to extend a very hearty welcome to the 20 new families starting at St Mary’s this year.

We look forward to welcoming you into our friendship circles and sharing giggles over the ‘universal family funnies’:

– from the despair of the morning routines: “OMG kids!! – it’s been the same routine every morning for the last ga-zillion years – not sure why I can’t just roll out of bed at 8:15am to be met by my ‘fully assembled and immaculately presented school children!!”

- to the weekly class awards at assemblies: “this week’s award goes to Johnny – for his listening and obedience..... “what??” utters his mum under her breath, “My Johnny – who I asked no less than 8 times this morning to place his plate in the dish-washer!!”....

Aaah yes...we’ve all been there...they’re the universal funnies; the ties that bind us as parents.

You know, someone once said to me (right before we as a family were about to embark on our primary school adventure here at St Marys, 11 years ago)... “Enjoy Primary School, it goes by super-fast in the end, but the friendships you make will be everlasting” .... You see, we’re bound to one another by the family funny. So to all of you that are new or maybe not so new, but maybe ‘uncertain’... allow us to take you by the hand, on a journey that will be as fabulous as you allow it to be....

Now about that aforementioned ‘name change’. In 2016, Kate (Secretary) and myself volunteered ourselves to update/review/amend the ‘outdated –never-formally-authorised-but-certainly-well-intended constitution document that was created in 2012’.

Starting at the very beginning of the document (that would be the title page!), it was recognised that whilst the St Marys Parents and Friends Association (P&F) was operating in the format of an association - as “an organization of people with a common purpose and having a formal structure” it did not meet the official requirements of an “Association” of which the very least requirements were registration and constitutional governance.

Giving it further thought, we deemed that both registration and constitutional governance were thought to be unnecessarily ‘bureaucratic’ for a group of parents who join this committee “in a voluntary capacity to be part of their child’s education and to actively participate in the organisation of a range of social, fundraising and other activities”. So it was decided to drop the ‘Association’ and replace with ‘Committee’. We then researched the ‘& Friends’ bit and learned that this evolved during the era of pre govt funding to Catholic schools when Parishioners with financial interest would attend these meetings ‘as friends’. Clearly this is now outdated so the ‘& Friends’ was subsequently dropped from the title. So that left us with Parents Committee.

Finally, I personally felt that it is important to respect the correct title of our school - “St Mary’s Parish Primary School” which honours the history of our school with its origins in our Parish. A link which continues to this day – a link that is spiritual, communal and yes - financial.

So we are now the “Parent’s Committee of the St Mary’s Parish Primary School”.

Henceforth to be otherwise known as the Parent’s Committee or PC - and in place of a constitution we now have ‘Guidelines’ which can be read as a hard copy from the school office while we work on uploading it to the school website.

Cont’d.......
Now returning to what we’re about at the PC, – and that is ‘harnessing friendship and community’ through the support of collaborative efforts to be at one with our kids, the teachers and the parishioners; I urge you to take a “cheeky, sneaky, peaky” at the events calendar attached after this newsletter. You will see that there are sooo many opportunities to get involved and I particularly encourage our new families to get amongst it... I guarantee friendships WILL blossom as a result!

Aside from me alerting you to them now, these events will get plenty of ‘air-play’ via school assemblies and via email alerts and Konnectives from your grade reps and the PC. You can also be reminded by looking at the school calendar courtesy of the school’s website or on the notice boards outside the Foundation class rooms. The PC events calendar is regularly updated and will be circulated monthly along with the PC minutes to the entire school community.

Also look out for Fr Paul Newton our Parish Priest who is with us until Feb 16 when Monsignor Stuart Hall takes up his appointment as our PP.

**Monday Feb 6th from 7:30pm in the Narthex is our first “PC meeting” for the year.** The newly assigned Executive and Active PC committee members for 2017 are already ‘owning’ their new roles and bringing infectious enthusiasm to the table, so I do encourage anyone who might just want to ‘see how we roll’ and maybe meet some new people, to come along. It’s certainly not an exclusive event for those with roles.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a fabulous year full of family funnies....

Bridget
COMMUNITY

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**PRINCIPAL**
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**KICK A FOOTBALL**
ITALIAN STYLE

TERM 1 - BEFORE / AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
@ St Mary’s Primary, Malvern East
BOOKINGS / INFO
Mastenz: 0404 089 015 - info@kickafootball.net
www.kickafootball.net

**Who:** Boys & Girls – All skill levels

**When:**
- Prep to Year 2 – Boys & Girls
  Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm, 6th Feb to 27th Mar
- Year 3 to Year 6 – Boys & Girls
  Wednesdays, 1:45-2:50pm, 6th Feb to 29th Mar

**Where:** School Lower Oval ground

**Price:**
- Mon - 3 weeks - $100
- Wed - 6 weeks - $140

**Bonus:** FREE FILA branded KickaFootball kit (shorts and t-shirt) for every new student that joins the program.

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