Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first official newsletter of the year. I would like to thank the school community for all their support as I undertake my new role. It has been a wonderful first week back, catching up with many of you at our Meet and Greets this week.

I look forward to seeing our Foundation parents tonight at our information session at 6:30pm.

It has been a busy week. Students have been engaged in SWELL week - a week filled with Wellbeing activities to help them in their transition into a new school or a new class. The Year of Mercy has been a theme we have used to deliver this. Doorways have been decorated in recognition of doors in churches around the world being opened and discussions held about how we can show mercy.

As a school we are launching our ‘Cornerstones’. Last year was a year of consultation around the values we feel as a community are most important. After much brainstorming and discussion we have reached: Respect for self, others and the world.

Respect for self:
Am I being the best person I can be? Am I eating healthily, getting plenty of sleep and exercise? Do I try my best at everything I do? Do I think about risks involved in what I am doing?

Respect for others:
Am I being a good friend/son/daughter/student? Do I listen carefully and do what others ask me to do? Do I think of how others might be feeling? Can I help them feel differently?

Respect for the world:
How do I look after our wonderful world? Do I put things away when I have finished with them? Do I put rubbish in the bin?

As a school we will continue to explore these ‘cornerstones’ throughout the year.

Please read the newsletter thoroughly as you will see exciting events happening next week too!

I hope everyone has a great week!
Sharon Daujat
Welcome back to the 2016 school year. We have lots of exciting things to look forward to in the area of Education in Faith this year.

This term we will have a big focus on Lent and Easter in all classrooms. Our Year 3 students will have a very busy first term preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We wish them every blessing as they prepare for this special occasion. All Grade 3 students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time need to complete a registration form and hand it back to Fr. Bill as soon as possible.

What’s happening next week at St. Mary’s?

- **Tuesday 9th February** - We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with delicious pancakes that will be prepared and cooked by our wonderful parents.
- **Tuesday 9th February** - You will be able to collect a Caritas Box as we will begin our Caritas Project Compassion Appeal for the Lenten Season. Our Grade 6 Leaders will be coming around to each of the classes from now until the end of term, encouraging everyone to be generous in their giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.
- **Wednesday 10th February** – Ash Wednesday Mass at 12noon. The whole school will be attending the Mass and Andrew Chinn will be playing the music for us.
- **Wednesday 10th February** - Andrew Chinn will take the children for workshops, sing at our Mass and perform alongside the children in a concert. Andrew will have his CD’s ($20), DVD’s ($20) and books ($20) for sale after the concert for anyone who is interested.
- **Thursday 11th February** - Reconciliation Information Evening in the hall at 7pm.
- **Saturday 12th February** - Welcoming and Commissioning Mass at 6:15pm in the Church. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in our community at the Mass. Everyone is welcome to join us after Mass for a drink in the Narthex.

The Three Pillars of Lent

Each Lent, we are encouraged to train like an athlete and work hard to exercise our spiritual self. We are presently in a time of preparation (40 days) leading up to our great *Easter Triduum* - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. During this time, our training involves exercises of the **three pillars of Lent**- alms-giving, fasting and prayer.

**What do they mean?**

**ALMSGIVING:** Almsgiving is an act of mercy, sacrifice, generosity, and forgiveness. This might mean forgiving someone, giving your time, money or material good to someone who needs it.

**PRAYER:** Prayer is having a conversation with God- aloud, in your heart or as a community.

**FASTING:** Fasting is an act of self-denial, self-examination and self-restraint. Fasting might take the form of ‘giving up’ your favourite food to ‘taking up’ extra chores around the house.
Andrew Chinn is coming to St. Mary’s
You’re invited to a concert!
Andrew Chinn and the Students at St.
Mary’s will be performing
Wednesday 10th February
St. Mary’s Hall
2.00-3.00pm
Everyone is welcome to join us!

On Wednesday 10th February, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew’s songs, such as “These Hands”, “Rainbow” and “An African Blessing” are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. Parents, toddlers and parishioners from our community are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. There is no charge. The concert will take place in the St. Mary’s hall. Commencing at 2pm. We look forward to seeing you there!
After the concert, Andrew will be selling CDs ($20) DVDs ($20) and Picture Books ($20). These are special prices just for us! ($2-13 off RRP).

A few reminders as we get back into the swing of school.
The safety of our community is important. For this reason the parking bays in front of the church are to be used for drop off and pick up only. There is two minute parking there at school drop off and pick up times. We also ask that all families use the crossing along Manning Rd and not cross the road in front of the church. If you are picking your children up from the steps at the end of the day, arriving closer to 3:15pm gives them time to walk from the school to the steps. We ask that everyone is respectful and patient.

Communication is important for our community. Konnective will be used by the school and class teachers to let you know of upcoming events and any changes to routines. Due to the ongoing threats being made to schools around the state, this would be the schools first method of communication. Please ensure you have downloaded this app and connected to the relevant feeds for your children.

The school had a very successful emergency evacuation practice this morning. We will be doing this regularly so everyone is confident what to do if a ‘real’ emergency arises.
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

CSEF applications open from term one 2016. The program will again be promoted to families via school newsletters and websites.

For more information, please refer to the website:


Fees and Levies - 2016

School fees for 2016 have been set at $2215.00 per family per year. Levies will be $675.00 per student for Grades F-2, $705.00 per student for Grades 3-4 and $720.00 per student for Grades 5-6.

Invoices will be sent out in the next week or so. Thank you for those very keen families who have already been trying to pay their fees!

Congratulations to Genn, Paul and Hugo Hamam who welcomed Atticus James on 29th December 2015

Also congratulations to Paula Kilgallon and Christopher Ackermann on the birth of Jack. A brother for Liam (4M) and Lily (1R)
PRESIDENT’S WELCOME
Greetings All

On behalf of the Parents & Friends, I would like to welcome everyone to 2016 at St Marys. A particularly warm welcome is extended to our 20 new families - and for the benefit of you guys, you should know that young and old and all ages in between, we are a busy and vibrant community that loves and encourages everyone to get involved in a whole manner of ways.

2016 will be my 10th year here at St. Mary’s and what I find particularly energising about the place is that there is always opportunity for new friendships to be fostered and laughter to be had every day. Be it flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, tying ribbons on Easter raffle prizes, holding the ladder steady during set up for a school social, popping bubbles in the “WAGS Marquee” at the Family Cricket Day, enjoying a ‘tete-a-tete’ over coffee in the narthex after Sunday Mass, delighting in your children’s achievements at assemblies, sharing a pew at School Masses, bagging up the gifts at the Mothers Day Stall, splashing kids with undercooked eggs as you assemble breakfast rolls at the Fathers Day Brekky, raking soft-fill at a working bee, sharing time keeping duties with teachers at the various sporting carnivals, ironing costumes for the end of year Nativity Play...the list goes on and so have I, but I’m hoping you’re rolling with me at this point and your enthusiasm is building.

Now you can keep yourself informed of all this ‘busy, busy’ in a number of ways:

Make sure the school and our gmail account: stmarysparentsandfriends@gmail.com -has your email address. This is a key avenue for the P&F keeping you informed of what’s going on - as is the Konnective app which can be downloaded for free on your smart phones.

But also check out this newsletter to which I’ve attached myself today. It is emailed out each Thursday (another reason why the school needs your email!) It can also be accessed directly via the school website. Get yourselves along too, to the school assembly on Friday mornings and/or check out the noticeboards outside the prep rooms or the parish noticeboard in the Narthex. We also have a Facebook page - ‘St MarysParentsFriends’ which we use to advertise upcomings.

We also enlist ‘Grade Reps’ who “do thou solemnly swear” to take the families in their grade “under their wing and guide them through the who, what, where, why and how related to the grade level they represent”. They also act a key liaison with the class teachers.
Mmmm so yeah about that ‘busy, busy’ - here’s your quick ‘heads up’ for February:

- Thurs 4/2 Prep Information Night 6:30pm
- Fri 5/2 Welcome Liturgy at Assembly 9:45am (includes introduction of teachers and P&F members)
- Fri 5/2 First Friday Parishioner Mass and Luncheon (Hospitality provided by St. Mary’s Care)
- Tues 9/2 Shrove Tuesday (= truckloads of pancakes thanks to Prep parent volunteers)
- Wed 10/2 Ash Wednesday (whole school Mass at 12 Noon and time to reflect on the ‘more and less’)
- Wed 10/2 Andrew Chinn Concert 2-3pm (this guy is a ‘cracker’ entertainer, you’ve got to be there!)
- Sat 13/2 Whole School Welcome and Commissioning Mass 6:15pm (followed by refreshments on the lawn)
- Sun 14/2 St Mary’s Premier League (SMPL#3) Family Cricket Day (Dairy Bell Oval - look out for the WAGS!)
- Sun 21/2 Children’s Liturgy during 9am Mass (+ coffee in the Narthex after Mass)
- Fri 26/2 Summer Drinks 6-10pm
- Sat 27/2 Term 1 Working Bee 3-5pm (concludes with gourmet BBQ and beverages)

Loads of fun to be had, lots of laughter to enjoy and lots of friendships to be forged, so get on it!

“Happy Days ahead everyone”

Bridget Yole
0402310179

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Chess world is coming to St Mary’s!

Chess World will be at St Mary’s on Monday 8th February at 1:10pm for any interested students in Grades 2-6. Any students who would then be interested in ongoing lessons at lunchtime will be given the relevant information on how to register and pay online through Chess World.
EAST MALVERN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
“Developing skills, lasting friendships and a love of the game”

BOYS AND GIRLS

WELCOME DAY
Sunday 14th February 2016
10am – 12pm

Merchandise will be available

DW Lucas Oval
Dunlop Pavilion, Moira Street, East Malvern

REGISTRATION is ONLY ONLINE at
www.eastmalvernknight.com.au
Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting opportunities that 2016 will bring.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at After School Care and to welcoming lots of new faces as well.

Existing Families

Don’t forget to manage your 2016 bookings.

Last year’s bookings do not roll over so log on to the parent portal NOW to secure your bookings for 2016.

You can book for the entire term or year or even book specific dates.

New Families

Enrol online - allow 24 hours

Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol now, pay later

The annual enrolment fee per family of $20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later?

It doesn't matter if you don't end up using the service, because you won't be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au
An enormous thank you to
ST MARY’S SPONSORS 2013 - 2015
Please support them whenever you can