Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

This week we marked the beginning of Lent with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and mass on Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a season to reflect. It is a special time when you can share the concepts of prayer and giving with your children. Take family time each day to offer prayers. Consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources. Even very young children can understand and will enjoy participating in the process. As a parent allocate time in your day for your own special prayer time. This may involve early rising or time spent away from a favourite hobby or activity. This ties in with our cornerstones: respect for self, others and the world. Finding time to devote to each is the challenge.

Thank you to the Foundation parents who donated their time on Tuesday to cook a feast of pancakes. They were enjoyed by students, staff and parishioners.

Andrew Chinn what can we say? The students had a fabulous day with him yesterday singing and dancing. He was a wonderful addition to our Ash Wednesday mass as well.

I look forward to seeing you at our first assembly for the year on Friday at 8:45am and Commissioning and Welcome mass at 6:15pm on Saturday, followed by Welcome drinks.

I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Sharon Daujat
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 at St. Mary’s?

- **Thursday 11th February** - Reconciliation Information Evening in the hall at 7pm.

- **Saturday 13th 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.

Leadership and Management

Thank you for your support in the morning routine. Staff are continually reflecting on the process to ensure the continued safety of students.

There is a much calmer start to the school day. The staff are also aware of the increased independence for our students with the expectation they are responsible for their own bag and any notes to be handed in. Our school goal for Student Wellbeing in our four year School Improvement Plan is “..to empower all students to be independent, confident and resilient learners.”

If you need to pass a quick verbal message to staff, they will be on the playground before the bell so you can communicate with them. Alternatively, send an email to the office regarding changes to routines for that particular day. Due to the busyness of school life, staff may not get to their emails until the end of a day.

As a school we have been talking about what to do in emergencies and what these might look like at school: a loose dog or strangers on the grounds, falling trees for example. On Tuesday we practised a lock down, where students needed to be quiet in their classrooms. They managed to do this very well. We will continue to practise our emergency procedures and encourage you to have conversations with your children about what you would do in emergency situations at home.
Appointment of New Principal for St Mary’s Parish School

Update for Staff, Parents and Students

The position for the new Principal of St. Mary’s School has been re-advertised in the Age and through the Catholic Online mail service and applications will close on February 22nd.

The Panel set up to advise me on the appointment remains the same membership and will, once again, bring their expertise and vested interest in the leadership and progress of our school to their deliberations.

After the applications are checked for eligibility and ratified the members of the Appointment Panel will receive the applications for consideration. The Panel will then meet on March 8th to short-list the candidates for interviews. Interviews will take place the following week. If an appointment is then made, and the Archbishop ratifies the appointment, we anticipate that an announcement will be made at the end of term.

Meanwhile our school continues with business as usual thanks to our very competent and professional leadership team.

Please keep the appointment panel in your prayers as together we discern who God is calling to this vital position of parish leadership.

Fr Bill Edebohl
We live in a time when there is much doom, gloom and criticism about the Church. The media love it and many people wallow in it. Much of the criticism is justified but much of it is not and simply reflects an anti-Christian secular agenda.

Whatever we make of the criticism do we, as followers of Christ – the embodiment of the all merciful, compassionate and forgiving God - prefer to wallow in doom and gloom rather than proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus? Is it easier to be bearers of gloom, gossip and despair rather than bearers of the Risen Christ?

Well Peter and his fishing mates could very easily have opted for the former. “What Lord, you expect us to set out again and heave out the nets? You must be nuts. We’ve had enough. We’ve been hard at it all night. It’s raining, the winds in the wrong direction, my mates and I need a beer, we’ve run out of worms, the boats stink and their just aren’t any fish”. If not doom and gloom then common sense should have told Peter to go home to bed and sleep it off.

But Peter obeyed. And in the process of catching an amazing haul of fish he learnt that his real mission was to catch men and women for the kingdom. To spread the Good News of the Messiah - even when he was at his wits’ end and all seemed to be lost.

The point of Luke’s story is Jesus’ miraculous influence with dispirited people, wearied by a night of profitless toil. These were the ones he needed as his disciples, followers disciplined by labour and hardship, but with the impetuous loyalty to say, “if you say so Lord, I will do it – I will follow.”

Peter’s life was transformed by his experience of Christ. He became a fisher of people and amidst trials and persecutions we can barely imagine, he shared not gloom but Good News. Good News of a God who has been born as one of us. Born into humanity that we may be born into divinity. Good News of death being defeated and resurrection being promised. Of sins being forgiven, of fallen individuals given the opportunity to start again, of mercy being shown to those who once may have lost their way instead being stoned by a self-righteous mob.

Yes, Peter knew, it is Good News we are called to proclaim. Not doom and gloom. First and foremost we are called to be proclaimers and messengers of this Good News of a God who is with us. Of a God who forgives, shows mercy and has vanquished death. Of a God that shares with each of us eternal life.

And we not only have that Good News to share but we also have news of fellowship, of celebration, of a mystic liturgy that can take us into the vision which Isaiah saw in the temple, of a community that cares, forgives, prays, and loves. That is all something we ought to rejoice in.

So, like Peter, don’t go back to bed because you’re sick of it all, because you’ve had a hard night and you can’t see yourself getting anything out of it for yourself. No! With St. Peter go fishing. Cast out your net and share the joys of the Faith with others around you. Be prepared to share your faith, your church, your very self with others so that they too may be caught up in the splendour of Isaiah’s vision of the sacredness of God.
Many years ago Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was introduced as a community/Victoria Police combined initiative. In recent years many communities have become disinterested in actively supporting NHW, so much so that the police periodically target areas to remind residents of the increase in home burglaries and thefts from cars.

Over the past two or so years, part of the Malvern East area has been targeted, both by thieves and the Police response, particularly the area bounded by Waverly, Darling, Malvern, Wattletree & Burke Roads i.e. much of the St Mary's parish area. There are only three active NHW areas functioning within the parish boundaries: Area 34, bounded by Waverly Rd, Darling Rd, Dandenong Rd & Burke Rd; Areas 25 & 27 cover Darling Rd to the East Malvern railway line at Darling, Malvern Rd, Belgrave Rd and Dandenong Rd.

Residents in the above areas receive regular NHW newsletters. Police are currently emphasising the frequency of theft from motor vehicles. This crime occurs throughout the local area in streets and driveways. Many people leave cars unlocked in driveways or in front of their homes. This practice along with leaving valuables in cars tempts opportunistic thieves. This is the first newsletter of this new initiative. If anyone from our parish or school communities is interested in joining together to help produce further instalments, please initially contact Bernadette at the parish office on 9571-2407 (Tuesdays to Thursdays between 10am and 12noon)

Additionally, most home and church burglaries are "opportunity crimes" - so basic security precautions can dissuade many burglars. Being aware of who lives in your neighbourhood reduces the freedom thieves have to move around areas. If in doubt residents are encouraged to call the Police - if a burglary is suspected call 000 immediately. Many people leave doors open at night during warmer months or when working outside in the garden – both situations leave residents vulnerable even when at home. A lot of renovation and construction occurs in our area & residents tend to ignore the activities of people wearing fluorescent vests.

A current initiative of NHW is to hold (for free) a vehicle ‘Safe Number Plate Day’ on Saturday 13th February at the Dan Murphy's car park on Dandenong Rd, Caulfield. Number plate theft is common, so NHW members & police will be in attendance between 11am & 2pm to exchange one of the screws attaching your vehicle number plates with tamper proof screws. This helps prevent theft of your numberplates and so helps to frustrate thieves, (and maybe saves your car and/or number plates). Also available will be engraving tools to mark family bicycles with a Victorian car license number which helps identify bike ownership in the event of theft.

(Material from Area NHW groups)

**Handy hints for school lunches:**
- Use insulated lunchboxes or cooler bags.
- Pack a frozen drink bottle or freezer brick inside the lunch box or bag, next to foods that should be kept cold, for example cheese, yoghurt, meat and salad.
- If making lunch ahead of time, keep it in the fridge until leaving for school or freeze them in advance.
- Some food is safe without a cold source such as a frozen ice pack. These include whole fruits, vegetables, hard cheeses, meat and fish in cans, bread, crackers

**Handy hints for mornings:**
"For kids going to sleep at night means they are on their own," says Betsy Brown Braun, child development and behavioural specialist, and author of You’re Not The Boss Of Me. "I look at the morning as the oasis after the drought.” In other words, kids can be especially needy for Mommy time in the morning, which may not exactly mesh with your desire to rush everyone out the door. Taking a moment first thing to reconnect with a snuggle and a little conversation can go a long way toward quelling attention-getting behavior later. If they start acting up as the morning goes on, see what you can do to re-establish a connection. Maybe getting dressed in Mommy and Daddy's room will be just what he needs to get his pants on.”

(http://www.parenting.com/gallery/de-stress-your-morning-routine?page=0)
BIKE ENGRAVING

Your bike or number plates could be stolen, and your plates could be used to commit a crime.

**DON'T TEMPT THIEVES!**

Secure your number plates with FREE tamper-proof screws and/or have your bike engraved for FREE.

**SAT 13th FEBRUARY**

11AM - 2PM

Dan Murphy’s, Dandenong Road, Malvern East

Information available on the day for Home Security, Theft from Motor Vehicle and Theft of a Motor Vehicle

For further information contact 0402 002 772
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 have now been issued. We request that all fees are paid in full by 30th September 2016.
Children’s Liturgy

In a Nutshell:
At the beginning of Mass, after a blessing from Fr. Bill we move into the Narthex to listen “and view” the Day’s Gospel. We then return to Mass during the Offertory.

Why?:
By presenting the Gospel in a pictorial, easy to listen manner, we aim to encourage the children’s understanding and appreciation of the Gospel and its message. Also included are songs and Prayers of the Faithful. The children then leave with A4 coloured activity sheets reflecting the Gospel messages for the month.

Who?:
Children in Grade 3 and below.

When?:
Third Sunday of the Month at the 9:00am Mass
21st February  20th March  17th April  15th May  19th June
17th July  21st August  16th October  20th November

Any Questions??
Speak to Bridget Yoie or phone Parish Office
Community

**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

DW Lucas Oval
Dunlop Pavilion, Moira Street, East Malvern

Merchandise will be available

REGISTRATION is ONLY ONLINE at
www.eastmalvernknight.com.au
Extend OSHC at St. Mary’s Primary School

Hello!

My name is Lenore and I will be the Team Leader for Before and After School Care with Extend at St. Mary’s Primary School.

As of last year I have completed my studies for my Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood & Primary) at Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy. I am now a qualified teacher! (How exciting!).

This year I am looking forward to team leading and planning a before and after school care program which is engaging and stimulating for all children. I look forward to meeting you and your child/children.

Weekly Recap

Last week was our first full week and what an exciting one it was! We welcomed our new preps to the service and it was fabulous to see the older children assist these preps learn the OSHC routine. The arts and crafts were popular where we made paper bag puppets and began to decorate our “Welcome Wall.” The children enjoyed playing team games outside such as “Twosome Tag” and the “Kids who cried Wolf.”

Lenore, Team Leader

Our Extend Superstar is…
Valentina Dias Ferreira Lessa
for her exceptional sharing.

Next week’s activities:

Monday 15 February:
Kite Making

Tuesday 16 February:
Dangling monkeys and touch football

Wednesday 17 February:
Popsicle stick photo puzzle and plant people

Thursday 18 February:
Mini beads bookmark and relay races

Friday 19 February:
Volcano painting and Science Volcanos

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