Dear Parents,

What a fantastic gathering for our Welcome and Commissioning mass last weekend. Thank you to the students who formed our choir and added to the celebration. Also thanks to our Grade 6 parent representatives for organising drinks on the lawn afterwards.

I also need to acknowledge the efforts of the cricketers on Sunday. After a long day in the field and some very close matches, the victorious team was Supersonic. The much coveted trophy brings bragging rites for the next year! Thank you to all who participated in the day, raising money that goes specifically to sports equipment and resources for our students.

This year we are launching names for our house colours. After much research by students over the last couple of years, our house names are: Egan - Green house, Harrington - Blue house, Mannix Gold house and Wurundjeri - Red house. Our Grade 5 and 6 students are continuing the research this term as part of their inquiry into Community. If you have any information or photos of our first priest Fr. John Egan or our first principal, Margaret Harrington, please let the school know.

I hope everyone is using the calendar that has been added on our website. Just to bring to your attention that St. Mary’s House sports is now on Monday 21st March.

Please look out for details in this newsletter regarding our information session on GAFE – What is it? on Monday 29th February at 7pm. This event is for parents and students and will provide information on the background and uses of GAFE. Please only bring students of St. Mary’s and not younger siblings.

I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Sharon Daujat
REMINDERS

Parents are to ring or email the school between 8.30 am and 9.30 am and let the school know if your child is sick, absent or going to be late because of an appointment. If by 9.45 am, your child has not arrived at school, the school will call you and let you know of their non arrival. If children arrive after 8:50am a “Late Pass” (blue) must be completed and handed to their teacher. If children are leaving school prior to dismissal time a “Permission to Leave School Pass” (pink) is to be completed and handed to either the teacher or the office. Also, as is current practice, please notify the school if your child has not arrived home by the expected time at the end of the day.

Family and Emergency Contact Forms:

Family and Emergency contact forms have been distributed to families. It is important for us to have up to date family and emergency contact details for each child. Please return your form to the office as soon as possible, even if there are no changes. If there are changes throughout the year, please email the office.

Photo Permission Forms

Could these be returned to the office as soon as possible.

Enrolments

We are now taking enrolments for 2017. Please collect an Enrolment Form from the office if you have a child starting Foundation next year.

Konnective

Please ensure you have downloaded the Konnective app and are receiving the feeds for the classes for your children. This is a great way to receive information about what is happening in the classroom and receiving information from the teacher. You can go to the app store, and search for Konnective. If you have any problems, please let us know.

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:

GAFE
PARENT AND STUDENT NIGHT

WHEN
Monday 29th February, 2016
7pm - 8pm

Come along to our family friendly GAFE information night!

WHERE
St. Mary's Malvern East
91 Manning Road
East Malvern

We are lucky enough to have our guest speaker
- Anthony Speranza -
Certified Google for Education Trainer and Innovator

WHAT
- Unpacking the what and how of GAFE
- Students showcasing their work
- Hands-On time

We will also be having our expert students showcase their work with Google and lead us in some hands on activities.

WHO SHOULD COME?
All parents and students
I have always thought that one of the greatest things about the Catholic Faith is that opportunities for new beginnings are at the heart of our Faith.

Our coming together around the altar as a parish family this weekend celebrates new beginnings.

New families beginning a new relationship with our parish and welcomed to our parish school, teachers and students (new and old) beginning a new school year, new leadership roles for teachers, students and parents, children beginning their journey to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and all of us beginning a new year with all its hopes and fears (though February seems to have suddenly pushed the new January far too quickly out of the way).

On this First Sunday of Lent we also begin another new journey.

At the beginning of the Lenten journey we are offered an invitation: “Be reconciled with God” (2 Corinthians 5:20); “Return to Him with all your heart” (Joel 2:12).

These words from scripture are not simply good advice it is an earnest appeal in the name of Christ: St. Paul begs: “We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God”

Why such a solemn and heartbroken appeal? Because Jesus knows how fragile and sinful we are. He knows the weakness of our hearts; He sees our hearts wounded by our sin, our failure to heed His commands, our failure to worship, our failure to gather together each week for Eucharist, our failure to be honest, our failure to seek justice for the most impoverished and ostracised in our community, our failure to put peace before war and hate, our failure in love, compassion and mercy.

Jesus knows how much we need forgiveness, even when we don't have the wisdom for self-reflection or the courage to admit it.

And this is where our children preparing for their 1st Reconciliation can help us. We are invited to share their journey. Allow them to remind us of our 1st Reconciliation and perhaps acknowledge that now, for whatever reason we have left that road, we have turned our backs on the reconciliation journey to which we are all called. We have left the road because we are too proud, too arrogant, too self-centred, to believe we need to be reconciled to anyone, let alone God. Our children invite us back to join them on the road: for they are setting out on a journey of discovery. First of self-discovery! Looking into their hearts and seeing and naming sin for what it is. The wrongs they have done – the good they have failed to do.

And having discovered self they will discover that to do good they must feel love and forgiveness.

Alone we are not capable: we need to allow ourselves to be reconciled by God, to permit Him to forgive us.

So important is this journey that Pope Francis has declared this to be a ‘Year of Mercy’.

He calls us to acknowledge that we are in need of mercy. This is the first step of the Christian journey; it is about entering through the open door of mercy that is Jesus, where He Himself, the Saviour, awaits us and offers us a new beginning and a new and joyful life.

There are, of course, obstacles, which close the doors of the heart. We prefer to live with sin, or we minimize it, always justifying ourselves, thinking we are no worse than others.

Cont’d…….
Or, we distance ourselves from the door of mercy. We cut ourselves off from our community of faith, we cut ourselves off from the Eucharist the food of mercy, we cut ourselves off from Reconciliation.

This happens because we remain alone with ourselves, closing ourselves and fleeing from the light, whereas only the Lord’s grace frees us. Let us be reconciled, let us listen to Jesus who says “Come to me” (Matthew 11:28). Do not remain in yourselves but go to Him! There is mercy, forgiveness, restoration and peace.

A new beginning, get back on the road, enter through the door of mercy, join your sisters and brothers in Christ on a journey of self-discovery first – then discover God offers a new beginning: In every baptism, in every reconciling confession, in every Eucharist.

And open your hearts to the three remedies that heal broken hearts and opens doors to a new journey: Prayer, Charity and Fasting – the theme of the Gospel that began Lent on Ash Wednesday. (Cf.Matthew 6:1-6.16-18)

To pray says to God: “I’m not self-sufficient, I need You, You are my life and my salvation.”

To give in charity is to give to someone who is in need of our time, of our friendship, of our help. It is to live sacrificial service to others, overcoming the temptation to satisfy only ourselves.

To fast, to deny ourselves, is to liberate us from dependency; and to train us to be more sensitive and merciful to those who are forcibly denied food, shelter, justice, refuge, asylum. It is an invitation to simplicity and to sharing: to take something from our own table and from our own goods to rediscover the true good of freedom.

“Return to me – says the Lord – with all your heart”. Get back on the road, enter the door of mercy, and welcome the adventure of a new beginning. The door of mercy is OPEN!
St Mary's Parents and Friends

Summer welcome event

We are delighted to invite you to the 2016 Summer Drinks.

This wonderful event has become an annual tradition at St Mary’s to bring together our community. It is a chance to catch up with friends old and new, and to welcome new parents & teachers to our school.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
6PM-10PM
UPPER GROUND
(PLEASE ENTER VIA MANNING RD)

Woodfire pizza provided
Drinks at bar prices

This event is not to be missed.
Please join us to kick start the year at St Mary’s.
St Mary's Parents and Friends

Summer welcome event

Please return this page to the school office.

To assist with catering,
we would really appreciate an indication of attendance.

NAME: ____________________ NO. ATTENDING: ____

☐ I/We will be attending
☐ I/We are a maybe
☐ Unfortunately, I/we can't make it

WE WOULD ALSO LOVE SOME HELP!

☐ I/We can help set up - Friday from 2pm
☐ I/We can help during the event
☐ I/We can help with a very quick clean up at the end of the event

Phone: ________________ Email: ________________

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact
Ruth Hynes 0400 842 507 Nerissa McLean 0417 148 230
Waverley District Netball Association’s NetSetGo program is now taking enrolments for aspiring netballers (Grade three age group). The program is aimed towards players aged 7-9. The program incorporates activities to enhance player’s netball skills and an understanding of the game in a fun and safe environment. The structured 10 week program will provide every participant with the opportunity to develop netball skills, physical fitness, social skills, sportsmanship and an understanding of the game of netball. Each hour long session runs from 8am to 9am on a Saturday morning. The first session is on March 14.


If you have any questions please call our Club secretary Sarah Tidey on 0409 162897.

**CLUB AGM**

The St Marys East Malvern netball club AGM is on February 20 at the home of secretary Sarah Tidey - 23 White St Glen Iris (ph: 0409162897). We ask that all teams currently registered send two representatives. We also encourage new team representatives to attend. The meeting will be brief, starting at 4pm. If you have an item for discussion please email Sarah at sarah.tidey@iinet.net.au. We will be distributing first aid kits for each of the teams at the meeting.

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*Grade 3 – serving up the fun this year!*

Grab the kids, your racquets and runners....

And join us for some family fun on Sunday March 6th 

4pm – 7pm

Eastverne Tennis Courts (at school)

BYO Drinks & snacks or Picnic dinner

Any questions or to RSVP, come have a chat with your Grade reps, Carlie Hall, Letitia Anderson, Sarah Flanagan or Vanessa Murray
Interested in playing junior hockey this winter at a friendly and inclusive local club?

Toorak East Malvern Hockey Club offers high quality coaching programs for players aged 6-16 and has long-established pathways for mixed and girls-only hockey. We have vacancies in all age groups.

**KEY DATES:**

- **Thur 25 Feb, 5pm** – **Hookin2Hockey** 4-week introduction for beginners aged 5-12 commences
- **Thur 25 Feb, 6pm** – Player/parent information session
- **Wed 2 Mar, 6pm** – U14 training commences
- **Thur 3 Mar, 5pm** – U6/U8/U10 training commences
- **Thur 3 Mar, 6pm** – U12/U16 training commences

All training at TEM’s home pitch:

**482 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, 3122**

More info?

Go to [www.temhockey.com/juniors](http://www.temhockey.com/juniors) or email Junior VPs, Pip Dudley and Ben Spencer at [juniorvp@tem.org.au](mailto:juniorvp@tem.org.au)
Weekly Recap

Last week we celebrated the Chinese New Year by making our very own paper chain dragons. Making honey joys was a big success and proved to be popular; alongside SPLAT! Painting where the children loved popping the balloons of paint to create their artwork. With Valentine’s Day on Sunday, the arts and crafts table was popular with children making cards for the people they love.

I look forward to seeing you again next week.

Lenore, Team Leader

Assistant Introduction

I would like to take this moment to introduce Matthew Briglia, my assistant and fellow team member. Matthew has worked with Extend for 1 year at multiple services such as Shelford Grammar and Sandringham East Primary School.

Our Extend Superstars are…

- Sophie Barbey for being a wonderful role model to our prep children.
- Ethan McLennan for always bringing his positive attitude to Extend OSHC.

Next week’s activities:

Monday 22 February:
Watercolour & pastel painting

Tuesday 23 February:
Cooking: Chocolate Truffles

Wednesday 24 February:
Bead bracelet making

Thursday 25 February:
Making race cars

Friday 26 February:
Mini science experiments

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au