Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

I read with interest the Australian Early Development Census National Report, which was released this week. St Mary’s participated in this data collection last year. St Mary’s Cornerstones are central to our approach to ensuring, as a community, we develop independent, respectful and resilient individuals. Our assembly awards each week are recognising individuals who show respect for themselves, others or the world. It might be putting rubbish in the bin, putting equipment away caring for a hurt friend or being a problem solver. These are important life skills, the development of which we can all work on together.

Invitations for Grandparents/Special persons Day have gone home. This event will take place on the last day of term – Thursday 24th March. We will start the morning at 9am (approximately) with a Holy Week Liturgy in the hall. At the conclusion of this, there will be a morning tea in the hall for our visitors, while students go back to the classrooms. There will then be time to visit classrooms before we ask guests to leave at 11:15am (approximately).

The Easter Bunny has made early visits to us at school. Thank you to those families who have dropped off eggs to form the prizes for our Easter raffle. The demand for these tickets has also been high. The raffle will be drawn from 12:30pm on the last day of school.

I hope you all have a good week.

Sharon Daujat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 2016 - Term 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Beachside Swimming</td>
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<td>14th</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral - 10.00am (Altar servers) Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.00pm</td>
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<td>18th</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 - Soccer Lightning Premiership Gr 3 - Excursion to Immigration Museum</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>St. Mary’s School Sports 11.00am - 2:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Grandparents / Special Persons Day Holy Week Assembly End of Term 1 - Students finish at 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 2016 - Term 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Start of Term 2 Students and staff return</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>First Communion Parent Information night - 7.00pm</td>
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<td>15th</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Camp information session 5:30pm</td>
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<td>22nd</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Liturgy - 8:45am Gr 5/6 sport (pm)</td>
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<td>25th</td>
<td>ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Sport (pm)</td>
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<td><strong>May 2016 - Term 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>P&amp;F 7:30pm</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Hot Food Day</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Mother’s Day stall Gr 5/6 Family Life parent session - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Liturgy 8:45am Gr 5/6 Sport (pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Joint Junior school mass with Holy Eucharist (at Holy Eucharist) 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th - 12th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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</tbody>
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RE News at St. Mary's

Senior School Parish Family Mass
Thank you to all the Grade 5 and 6 families who attended our Senior Parish Family Mass last Saturday. It was wonderful to share this special event with Grade 5 and 6 students from Holy Eucharist. It was also great to see some families stay behind and share an icy-pole on the lawn after Mass.

Reconciliation
Yesterday was our Reconciliation Reflection Day. We had 63 students from our Parish attend the reflection day in the hall. Students worked on a range of activities that assisted in preparing them to make their First Reconciliation. Thank you to the teachers of St. Mary’s and Holy Eucharist who prepared such a wonderful day. I would also like to thank the Grade 3 parents who assisted with cooking and serving us a sausage sizzle lunch. It helped to make the day extra special for all of us. Please keep the Reconciliation Candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament on Thursday 17th March at 7pm.

Catholic Education Week
Next week the Altar Servers within our school will attend the Catholic Education Week St. Patrick's Day Mass. These children will represent St. Mary’s by parading our school banner into the Cathedral at the beginning of Mass. These students will also participate in Mass along with representatives from every Catholic school in Melbourne. After Mass we will walk down to Treasury Gardens to celebrate with a concert.

Holy Week at St. Mary’s
This year we will be having two special events to mark Holy Week at St. Mary's. Our Grade 5 and 6 students have been working very hard to produce a passion play that all students will be able to view on Wednesday 16th March.
On Thursday 24th March at 9am we will be presenting a Holy Week Liturgy in the hall to all grandparents and parents who are able to attend.

Lent
As we are in the middle of Lent it is a good time to go into our hearts, seek God inside and find what needs fine-tuning. Here are some ideas for your family to discuss and think about doing during Lent:

- Give any unused clothes or toys etc. to Vinnies.
- Name 3 things that are unjust or unfair. Pray about them.
- Why are people with a disability more likely to be living in poverty?
- Watch a Caritas Australia YouTube video: www.youtube.com/caritasaustralia

Amy Burns
Religious Education Leader
Over the term, the Grade 5 and 6 students have been researching significant figures in the history of the St Mary’s community. These significant figures each represent one of our house colours. Today the Grade 5 and 6 students spent time in classes presenting their findings below. As a school we will begin to use these names when talking about our House Teams, bringing more meaning to our house system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HARRINGTON - BLUE</th>
<th>EGAN - GREEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Margaret Harrington was the first lay principal of St. Mary’s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>She was born in the 1890’s.</td>
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<td>She was only paid 10 shillings a week that is the same as 1 dollar.</td>
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<td>She was 23 when she became Principal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>She taught the first 25 students of St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr John Egan was born in the 1800’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>He passed away on Thursday August 9th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr John Egan was the first parish priest of St Mary’s, although there was a priest before him named Fr Crennin. Fr Crennin was a priest at two schools, like Fr Bill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr John Egan loved to dance! Sometimes even, he would dance for people on their birthday! He even once danced on a piano for a lady’s birthday.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WURUNDJERI - RED</th>
<th>MANNIX - YELLOW</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Wurundjeri tribe owns the land of St Mary’s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All the tribes in Australia have different languages to each other.</td>
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<tr>
<td>People say that Aboriginal people have lived here for at least 26,000 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation are also traditional owners of the land which goes by the name of ‘The city of Yarra’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>They have been with the Yarra land for tens and thousands of years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archbishop Daniel Mannix built the first school and hall and laid the foundation stone of the present church.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>He was born in March 1864 in Charleville, Cork, Ireland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Mannix died in November 1963 in Melbourne, Victoria and got buried in St Patrick’s Cathedral.</td>
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Reading to your children at home.

Here are some questions you might like to use when reading with your children.

**Example questions/statements**

- What in the text helped me/you know that?
- How is this text making me/you feel? Why is that?
- When you read/listened to this text did it remind me/you of anything I/you know about? Why did it remind me/you of that?
- What did the composer of the text mean by ...?
- Whose point of view is this? What points of view are missing?
Learning and Teaching

GAFE (Google Apps For Education) includes a number of apps students access with a school based username. These apps include drive (storage), docs, (word processing), slides (powerpoint), sheets (excel), gmail (email platform) and Classroom (teacher led management system for assignments, work to be collaborated on).

There are many other apps which staff are beginning to explore before using them in the classroom.

This recent post to Konnective shows one way we are using GAFE at St Mary’s:

This afternoon Mrs White taught us how to share a document on Google with another person in our class. Then we could share our ideas and write a story together.

St Mary’s Primary School will soon be turning 100!

30th June 2018 marks 100 years since the laying of the memorial stone for what became the first permanent school. The school is looking to create a committee to spearhead the planning of our centenary celebrations. If you are interested in being part of this committee please contact the school on:

office@smmalverneast.catholic.edu.au

Thank you to those who responded to this last week—there is still room on the committee! Please let us know if you are interested.
The attitude of writing people off as lost causes is the problem in today’s Gospel. The sinners and outsiders come to hear Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes, insiders, come to complain that Jesus welcomes the outcasts and eats with them. The Pharisees want Jesus to let the outsiders to stay out - stay lost. Why bother with the likes of them? The Pharisees, whose name means ‘separated ones’, see themselves as having no relationship with the outsiders. Jesus sees both groups as children of the one loving God and, therefore, brothers and sisters to each other. Rather than argue the point, Jesus tells a story about a father who has two sons and who loses them both.

The younger son gets lost in a far country while the elder son gets lost staying at home. The younger son leaves home, but his journey leads him to a place of hunger, of degradation and of possible death. He is in danger of dying far away, forgotten and forsaken. But this lost son comes to himself in a pigpen when he realises that he doesn’t really belong there, but has a home and a family to belong to. There’s nothing like hunger to sharpen your sense of belonging! The prospect of regular, square meals is enough to head him in the right direction, and he makes the journey of return on a full stomach.

All this time his father has not accepted the loss of his son. His son’s being lost has not ended his love for him: if the son has let go of his father, the father has not let go of his son. He is a father who stays on the lookout, whose eyes hunt the horizon for the return of his son, whose love fuels his hope that his son will come back. And when he does see his son a long way off he is moved with mercy and compassion to run and meet him. And, when someone comes to meet you, your journey is always shorter. The father's love takes the initiative. He meets his son with love’s extravagance and, rather than listening to a boring speech from his repentant son, he organises a good party. After all, his son is found.

The elder son is the type who stays out in the fields long after the cows have come home. When he makes his return journey, unlike his younger brother, he doesn’t make it home - he stays outside. His father comes out a second time that day to meet a son but all he gets is another boring speech! ‘All these years I have slaved for you’ shows how the elder brother sees faithfulness and doing the right thing as slavery. He is enslaved by his own sense of justice - justice without mercy. He wants to maintain the farm without any obligations to his brother. He has no reach in him. In fact he is the ‘separated one’ who refuses to recognise his brother as his brother, but is content for him to stay lost. Unlike his father, he cannot surprise his brother with the quality of his mercy. His perspective and his heart are hard and fixed.

When we look at ourselves we can probably see parts of each of the three characters in us. There is the part of the father in us which has a keen eye for those who are lost and a good nose for when a party is needed. There is the part of the younger son in us which wants to selfishly grab everything we can and try everything we shouldn’t. And there is the part of the elder brother in us which wants other people to pay for our merciless piety and faithfulness. All three characters are within us, competing to shape our life.

This Lent let us pray that the youngest son in each of us will be prepared to acknowledge our sin and start the journey home to Our Father - the God who always loves us.

That the eldest son in each of us will listen to the good news of Jesus and have the humility and courage to change and open up our attitudes, our perspective, our opinions, our hearts.

And that the father in each of us will be fit and willing to run out with a mercy that embraces others. Because there’s a lot of people in our lives and in our community who are still a long way off – and may just need someone to walk towards them with open arms.
Adding 10 minutes a day to a child's reading makes a big difference over the year.

A comparison of Year 5 children:

- 14,000,000
- 12,000,000
- 10,000,000
- 800,000
- 600,000
- 400,000
- 200,000
- 0

DID YOU NOTICE?
The more minutes children read per day, the more fluent their reading becomes. From 5 minutes to 15 minutes per night there is around a 200% increase in word exposure over one year!

Research shows us that the benefits of reading more improve performance in:
- General knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension
- Verbal fluency
- Spelling.

**Cueling and Stanovich (1998)**

Let's Raise Readers!
St Mary’s Eastverne TC
Social tennis day
91 Manning Rd East Malvern
Sunday 20 March, 2016 from 4pm
All St Mary’s family groups welcome
Tennis and pizza
BYO racquets and refreshments
Cost $20 for family groups, individuals $10

Grade 2 Parents
Morning Get Together

Let's catch up before Term 1 is over – can you believe it!
We can chat about our plans for the year,
and even talk about the upcoming Easter break!

Friday, 18 March 2016
After Assembly
The Kitchen Table, 134 Burke Road, Glen Iris
Feel free to bring along your little kids
To ensure there is enough seating,
please RSVP to your grade reps by 15 March

2Mo: Sophia – 0419 358 493, Tehani – 0409 692 850
2Mc: Jo – 0412 827 904, Pina – 0428 999 181
Easter Raffle

The most egg-citing raffle of the term is here!

Don’t forget to buy your raffle tickets and donate Easter Goodies to be part of our annual St Mary’s Easter Raffle!

Extra raffle tickets are available at the office.

Boxes for your generous donations of Easter eggs, craft and themed goodies are in the foyer.

Thank you for your support!

LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS AND TICKET SALES IS THURSDAY, MARCH 17

THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24
AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAM BOOKINGS ARE OPEN AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU!

Book by the deadline to take advantage of lower rates!

VIC & QLD booking deadline: Friday 18 March

We have heaps of fun activities planned these school holidays and can’t wait for you to attend! Create a diorama of the Amazon jungle, mould an autumn leaf dish out of clay, and participate in lots of group games including a time challenge and secret agent maze! Join in on all this and more at Extend’s Autumn Holiday Program.

To check out what’s on and where your local program is, visit our website at extend.com.au and book via the Parent Portal.

Weekly Recap

What a fun and exciting week we had at After School Care. The week was a hoot! On Monday the children made “tiny teddy racing cars” using milkyway bars, marshmallows and tiny teddies. This was a huge success amongst the children. Thursday was another cooking activity where the children made their own “Funny Face Biscuits.” We also received a new frisbee and a game of Ultimate Frisbee was had.

Please remember that Monday 14th is a student free day due to the Labour Day Public Holiday. There will be no Extend Before & After School Care running on this day.

I look forward to seeing you again next week.

Lenore, Team Leader

Our Extend Superstars are…

Adam Di Carlo for being a team player and for showing fantastic sportsmanship.

And

Harvey O’Beirne for your great listening skills during After School Care.

Next Week’s activities

Monday 14 March:
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 15 March:
Moomba Parade Masks
Wednesday 16 March:
Rice bubbles and marshmallow
Thursday 17 March:
Egg parachutes
Friday 18 March:
Cooking: Fruit salad and yoghurt

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au
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