St Mary’s Parish Primary School
214 Dandenong Road, St Kilda East VIC 3183
Tel: (03) 9510 7420 Fax: (03) 9510 7872
School Office Hours: 8:40am to 3:45pm

NEWSLETTER
Volume 18 – Issue 1 Monday 2nd February, 2015

Principal Gerard Lewis
Education Support Erica Nastopoulos
Office Assistance Robbie Bartlett & Janelle Adams
Parish Priest Fr Barry Moran

Teachers
Year FF Jacquie Fleming Year FT Freda Tahtouh
Year 1J Therese John Year 10 Brigitte O’Shea
Year 2B Gabrielle Berends Year 2M Kate Morgan
Year 3F Ben Fahey Year 3R Simon Raines
Year 4M Maureen McDonald Year 4S Stephanie Schultz
Year 5B Claire Butson Year 5M Samantha Malin
Year 6 Paula Incretolli Reading Recovery Clare Sabatino
Library Anna Borella Italian Carmela Vozzo
Phys Ed (Junior) Chris Kidman Phys Ed (Senior) Matt Ottobre
Support Eleanor Colaneri (Year 3F) Support Jane Davy (Year 2B)
Support Daniela Borgese (Years 1J & 6) Support Catherine LeHunt (Year 4M)
Number Intervention Anna Side Artist in Residence
Library Tech Dianne Pavlou

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday 7th February Holt Swimming Trials Years 3 & 6
Tuesday 10th February Camp Rumbug – Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 11th February Camp Rumbug – Years 5 & 6
Thursday 12th February Camp Rumbug – Years 5 & 6
Friday 13th February Camp Rumbug – Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday
Thursday 19th February Individual Parent Information Meeting 1:30pm onwards
Sunday 22nd February School Opening Mass 9am
Sunday 22nd February St Mary’s Open Day 10:30am to 12pm
Monday 9th March Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday 16th March Catholic Education Week
Wednesday 25th March School Photos
Wednesday 25th March Twilight Sports 4pm – 7pm
Friday 27th March End of Term – Student’s breakup at 1pm
          After Care is available until 6pm, booking is essential
Friday 3rd April Good Friday
Saturday 4th April Holy Saturday
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday
Monday 6th April Easter Monday – Public Holiday
Term 2 commences
Monday 13th April School Begins 8:55am

From the Principal’s Desk:

Welcome to St Mary’s for 2015
I hope you all had a great holiday and are rested, ready to begin an exciting 2015. We have certainly had a great start to the year. The Foundation students and the new children have settled in very well. As of Friday we now have 293 children attending St Mary’s.

New Staff
A big welcome back to Claire Butson (Year 5B) and Jacquie Fleming (Foundation F) who have re- turned to St Mary’s and a warm welcome to Kate Morgan (Year 2M) and Clare Sabatino (Reading Recovery), who join the staff this year. We hope that their time with us is an enjoyable and rewarding one.
New Families
With the start of 2015 we warmly welcome thirty three new families to St Mary's. We hope that your time at St Mary's is very enjoyable. The following children commenced at St Mary's last week:
Gaurangi Abrol; Tanya Akyam; Mathew Bautista; Lennox Brazenall; Yue Cao; Joss Capiron; Pascala Chamoun; Camilla Clelland; Harrison Clelland; Tara Curtis; Wynter Dallas; Ava-Jane Eaton; Georgia Eaton; Riley Eaton; Rivi Farrell; Mabel Fowler; Francesca Frescure Kokkinos; Samantha Giannakopoulos; Nel Gijbels; Kobe Gijbels; Bailey Grimmer-Krpan; Chloe Guevarra; Akshaj Gupta; Athena Kelty; Dionyssos Kontos; Madeleine Leroi; Isabella Leroi; Charlotte Leroi; Lili Leyshon; Isabel Lie-Olesen-Phillips; Clementine-Auriella Line; Edward Lloyd-Smith; Audrey Merlin; Matilda Morley; Adrah Morrison; Alessandra Morton; Rachel Mullavey; Daisy O'Sullivan; Rocco Paoli; Isaac Philippiadis; Lucy Quinn; Bronwyn Roberts; KulasaK Ronarongsanee; Sophie Rotstein; Nethmi-Caitlan Semmens; Massimo Serritiello; Jarek Soen; Jerome Soen; Mavroidis Stefanakos; Samuel Stephens; Dulcie Sverdvik; Natasha Tan; Kael Thomas; Nha Dan Trinh; Gina Tripolitano; Yianni Tsaglos; Ellı Grace Tsirigotis; Gretel Varney; Dominic Wheeler; Olivia Wicks; Emily Wicks; Marlo Wilson;

Opening School Mass
The official opening Mass for the school year will be held on Sunday 22nd February at the 9:00am Parish Mass. At the end of Mass this year we will be having an Open Day from 10:30am – 12:00pm. This Open Day connects closely with the Christian Brothers College (CBC) and Presentation College Windsor (PCW) Melbourne Open Days on the same afternoon.

The New School Year
Last Wednesday, teachers and Leaders of the three schools within the boundaries of St Mary's Parish, CBC, PCW Melbourne and ourselves came together to celebrate Liturgy for the commencement of the school year. This is the first time that we have done this. After Mass we joined the staff from CBC for morning tea. Thank you to Fr Moran for celebrating Mass with us.

Safe Car Travel
Please be careful when travelling in Westbury Street and around the Senior Campus. Due to building works at CBC, large trucks will be entering through the Senior Campus grounds. Please make sure for the safety of all children that you follow the parking and drop off rules and advise your children to be careful.

Leadership at St Mary's
Congratulations to the following teachers who have been appointed Leaders within the school for 2015.
Ben Fahey – Deputy Principal
Maureen McDonald – Education in Faith
Freda Tahtouh– Learning and Teaching
Paula Increttolli – Literacy
Therese John – Student Wellbeing
Ben Fahey – School Community
Anna Side – Student Services
I will be leading the Mathematics.

Congratulations to the following students who were appointed to School Leaders at the end of last year:
School Captains Michael Dasopatis and Ava Weisz
Vice Captains Savina Litsas and Perran Silverio

The other Year 6 Leaders will be announced in the next newsletter.

Individual Parent Information Meetings – 19th February
This year we will continue with the Individual Parent Information Meetings with each teacher. Please note that this is not a Parent Teacher Interview as it is too early in the year for the teachers to tell you about your child’s individual performance. Instead it is an opportunity for you to tell the class teacher important information about your child/ren. There will be school on this day from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Please note that school will conclude at 1:00pm and the meetings will start at 1:30pm. I will negotiate with Extend to see whether After Care can commence earlier on that day for students who normally attend this program. For the first time parents will be able to book their interviews on line. A notice will be sent home this week outlining this new process.

Recess
Last year we trialled two different approaches to help alleviate the number of children playing on the Junior playground at Recess time. In both instances we trialled using the Computer Laboratory and Library. Unfortunately those two scenarios were not adequate. We are still trying to find the right solution to ensure that
child safety is at the forefront of our decision. For this Term we are trialling that different classes each day have a separate recess time. An additional recess time will be from 10:35am – 11:00am. The normal recess time from 11:05am – 11:30am will continue. The new earlier recess time and classes for this Term are as follows:

- Monday - Years 1 & 2
- Tuesday – Year 3
- Wednesday - Foundation
- Thursday – Years 5 & 6
- Friday – Year 4

As this is a trial, an evaluation of this new arrangement with students, teachers, parents and Leaders will take place at the end of Term 1.

**New School Behaviour Policy**

We have started 2015 with a new School Behaviour Policy entitled Social and Emotional Learning - Restorative Practices. “Practices are built into the culture of the school so that there is a concerted approach to: the respect shown to staff and students in the way that mistakes are dealt with; the respect shown to parents and families in the way communication and their complaints are handled; curriculum which reinforces the value and support of relationships, co-curricular activity which recognises individual needs and differences; pedagogy which engages students inactive learning; and standards of expected behaviour which above everything else, value people.” (Restorative Practices in Catholic School Communities 2011).

Our old school behaviour policy was centred on the ‘old school’ authoritarian model, in that if a child broke a rule they might be punished for it. This new policy centres on the key components of relationships and how we can continue to build on them.

As a result we have developed the following Code of Norms at St Mary’s:

*At St Mary’s we work in a safe and respectful learning environment where everyone takes responsibility for their own behaviour.*

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

Throughout the year Therese John the Student Welfare Leader will be conducting parent workshops on our new approach. Therese is leading this initiative within the school.

**Foundation (Prep) Classes are**

At the end of last year the St Mary's Leadership Team made the decision to call the first year of school Foundation rather than stay with Prep. This choice was made to align with the new Australian Curriculum’s name. Many schools within Australia now call the first year of school Foundation.

**School Assembly**

The school assemblies will continue this year at 3.00pm each Monday afternoon. For Term one, they will be held in the church. All parents are welcome to join us at the start of each week.

**Years 5 & 6 Camp**

All children in Years 5 & 6 will be attending Camp Rumbug next week from Tuesday to Friday. St Mary’s will certainly be quiet during this time. It will be a great way to commence the year for our senior classes. We hope that they have a great time.

**Twilight Sports Carnival**

Our Twilight school athletics this year will be held in the last week of Term One on Wednesday 25th March. As Alma Park is unavailable we are looking for another suitable venue.

**Parents and Friends Association**

As in previous years we are looking for Parents Representatives from each class to assist with greater communication channels between parents, teachers and leadership. Please contact George Dallas or Bernie Curtis if you would like to be a parent representative this year. This role is a vital one in linking the parents within the school community.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

*Gerard Lewis*

*Principal*
INFORMATION UPDATE
This is a vital annual task, as we have to update our files. We must always have your correct up to date contact numbers in case of emergencies.

ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL APP
The St Mary's Primary School - St Kilda East App has been created to keep our students, families and the broader school community connected and up to date with the latest information and news from St Mary's. If you are a new family to St Mary's or haven't yet downloaded the app, download it and stay up to date.
App features include:
• News panel with a latest news feed direct from the school website
• Notifications system allowing you to subscribe to alerts and reminders from the school
• Events calendar providing a listing of upcoming events
• Documents library which contains newsletters, forms and policies
• Gallery which showcases school life through images and video
• Contact information and website link

The App is available for download in the Apple App Store and via Google Play for Android devices. You can access the App via the direct links below, or by searching for St Mary's Primary School St Kilda East.

Google Play Store:

iTunes App Store:

If you have any questions about the app please speak to either Mr Fahey or your child's classroom teacher.

SUNSMART SCHOOL
We are a sunsmart school and the policy is ‘No Hat, No Play’. Only school hats are to be worn.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
All children must wear the correct school and sports uniform. Sneakers to be worn only with sports uniforms, as they are unhealthy for children to wear every day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP is open only on Thursdays (only items available are school jumper and school hat)

Thursdays 8:45am to 9:00am & 3:15pm to 3:30pm

Hair is to be neat and tidy and with long hair to be tied back with a navy ribbon or hair elastic. Girls wear navy socks with their uniform. For Health and Safety reasons, jewellery is to be kept to a minimum with no bangles or necklaces except for those of a religious nature. However remember that these can be lost or pulled through playing.

LUNCH ORDERS
Lunch orders are available only on Mondays.

HEALTHY SCHOOL, HEALTHY MIND POLICY
It’s impossible to promise to be an allergy free school but our healthy food policy endeavours to make this as healthy an environment as we possibly can. The teachers supervise play and lunch eating and ensure that children don't share or swap food. No sweets or sugary drinks are allowed. We ask that children bring water only in drink bottles to sip on if needed. Birthdays will be celebrated in special ways in classes but not with birthday cakes, as we cannot know for sure what the ingredients are. Obesity is a childhood issue and our policy aims to teach children good food eating habits. We thank you for your co-operation.

EXCURSIONS
Throughout the year children will be going on excursions to various places. Most of the cost for these is covered by your Composite Levy. Details will be sent to you about each excursion and you will be asked to sign a permission form and return it to school immediately. No child can go on an excursion without your written consent. At various times, teachers will take children on short walking excursions around the neighbourhood, please return the blue form as soon as possible.

NEWSLETTERS
Communication is very important between the school and parents. The newsletter gives you a general idea of what's happening in our school. The school newsletter will be emailed each fortnight on a Monday, also a copy is placed on our website. Class teachers will also have a regular class newsletter.
RE NEWS - Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28
Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit and his fame spreads throughout Galilee.

Family Connection
The people who heard Jesus teach and saw him heal in today’s Gospel were said to have been astonished and amazed by the authority of his teaching. So compelling were Jesus’ words and actions that the news about him could not be contained; it spread quickly throughout all of Galilee. Two thousand years later, the news about Jesus continues to spread. We are called to participate in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in our words and in our deeds.

Gather as a family and try to name some amazing things, events, or people. In today’s Gospel we hear that the people were astonished and amazed by their experience of Jesus. Read today’s Gospel, Mark 1:21–28. What did the people who saw and heard Jesus find so amazing? (In Jesus, the people heard and saw the power and authority of God at work.) People should see in our lives the power and authority of God at work. Can you name any modern examples of people in whom you have seen the power and authority of God at work? Conclude in prayer together that we will experience wonder at the work of God in our world today. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Maureen McDonald – Religious Education Leader

PARENT HELPERS WORKSHOP
If you wish to help in your child’s classroom during the Literacy Block you will need to attend an introductory workshop. You will also need to have a “Working With children Check”. If you have attended this workshop in the past and have had experience as a Classroom Helper you need not attend again. The workshop will be held in March for new helpers. Further information will follow.

Paula Incretolli – Literacy Leader

SAFETY AND TRAFFIC
For the children’s safety, do not double park, reverse out of the flats driveway to let your child out. No U-turn is allowed in front of the school crossing. Please do not toot car horns as you drive past to attract your child’s attention. The police and council officers will patrol the area.

BEFORE & AFTERCARE
Our School Care Program is operating again. Online Enrolment must be filled out with student’s details before they are able to use this service.

SCHOOL ROUTINES

Times:  
8:40 am  Gates opened.
8:45 am  Internal Doors open
8:53 am  Music plays to assemble for start of school.
8:55 am  School bell rings.
3:30 pm  Dismissal

Work will start punctually at 9:00am because we start our Literacy Block from 9:00am to 11:00am. During this time children are doing solid literacy work. It is in their best interests that they will need to make up this work if they are late. LATE PASSES will be handed out to those who are late.

Please collect your children as close as possible to dismissal times. After 3:45pm there is no teacher on duty and all children will then be placed into aftercare.
Parent & Friends Committee Update

Parents & Friends Mission Statement
Encouraging and strengthening the school community and coordinating social and fundraising events for additional educational resources for our children.

We hope you all had a great summer break and you are all settling back into the school routine for 2015. We are looking forward to working together in having another great year of P & F community events and fundraising.

Class Representatives for 2015
First things first, we need Parent Class Reps. We have four parent volunteers so far, but we do need more. Please consider nominating yourself for being a Class Rep for your child’s class.

What’s involved with being a Class Representative?
- being the main point of contact for your child’s class
- co-ordinating social events for parents and children for the class
- co-ordinating the fundraising events as outlined in the P & F calendar with the other class rep in that year
- liaise with the P & F committee and other class representatives
- be involved with P & F committee meetings
- distribute communication to parents for the class regarding missing clothing or other relevant information
- maintain and distribute a contact list for your class
- have fun and enjoy contributing towards your child’s success at St Marys

We hope to have all Class Reps organised within the next two weeks.

Please inform Ben Fahey, St Mary’s School Community Leader for 2015 or the P & F Management Committee, either George Dellas george@in-focus.com.au or Bernie Curtis bernie@curtis.org.au of your Class Rep nomination.

P&F Fund Raising Goals for 2015
We are looking forward to another successful fund raising year. Our fund raising goal for 2015 is $15,000.

P&F Partnerships
The P&F has an ongoing partnership with Bakers Delight in Balaclava. As you may recall from last year all you need to do is let the staff know that your purchase is for the St Mary’s Primary School fundraiser and 10% of what you spend will be automatically donated to the school. Last year we accrued $660 in fund raising which goes towards our fund raising goal for 2015. We look forward to another successful year with them.

P & F Calendar of Events for Term 1: February 2015
P & F Event dates will be confirmed in the next P&F update.
Extend OSHC at St Mary's - Primary School

New Families – Enrol in Out of School Care

**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

**ONLINE BOOKINGS:** extend.com.au

**CALL OUR OFFICE:** 1300 366 437

---

**DROP OFF AND PARKING DIRECTIONS FOR ST MARY’S SCHOOL**

- Please keep the **ROUND-ABOUT** near the presbytery **CLEAR AT ALL TIMES** there is to be **no parking** or **dropping off** or **picking up** from this area.
- We ask that you observe the **5KM** limit at all times while in the driveway.
- The drive way is **ONE WAY ONLY**.
- The painted **ARROWS** indicate the direction of the traffic flow.
- **ENTER ONLY** from Westbury Street.
- **EXIT ONLY** onto Dandenong Road.
- The **PAINTED CROSSING** is the point at which you stop. Your child is then able to cross safely in front of your stopped car on the crossing or alight from the right hand side of the car straight in the drop off section. (Marked on the map)
- Cars are asked not to stop after the **CROSSING**. There is to be **NO** dropping children off after the painted crossing.
- If you need to spend any time at your car unloading bags, hugging etc please **PARK** on the basketball courts in front of the Community Centre and walk over to the school using the crossing and the garden path.
- The **GARDEN** area is the only passage for pedestrians. The drive way is no longer accessible for walkers.
- Please keep to the paths at all times.

**PLEASE DO NOT WALK ON THE GRASS AT ANY TIME.**

FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD AND GENERAL EFFICIENCY OF TRAFFIC FLOW WE ASK THAT YOU FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS.
PARKING

St Mary's Senior Campus

CBC

Garage

Presbytery

5 KM

DANDENONG ROAD

Church

NO DROP OFF AFTER CROSSING

FLOW THROUGH DROP OFF SECTION

FLOW THROUGH DROP OFF SECTION

St Mary's Primary School - Main Campus

Garden

Balloons

Pedestrian Entrance

WESTBURY STREET

5 KM