NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 – Issue 19  Monday 7th December, 2015

Principal: Gerard Lewis
Parish Priest: Fr Barry Moran

Education Support: Erica Nastopoulos
Office Assistance: Robbie Bartlett & Janelle Adams

Teachers

Year FF: Jacquie Fleming (Year FT)
Year 1J: Therese John/Daniela Borgese (Year 10)
Year 2B: Gabrielle Berends/Jane Davy (Year 2M)
Year 3F: Ben Fahey/Eleanor Colaneri (Year 3R)
Year 4M: Maureen McDonald/Catherine Le Hunt (Year 4S)
Year 5B: Claire Butson (Year 5M)
Year 6: Paula Incretolli/Daniela Borgese (Reading Recovery)
Library: Anna Borella (Italian)
Phys Ed (Junior): Chris Kidman (Phys Ed (Senior))
Number Intervention: Anna Side (Artist in Residence)
Library Tech: Janelle Adams (Teaching Assistance)
Teaching Assistance: Judith Dellar

From the Principal’s Desk:

Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Thank you to Fil Giannopoulos and fellow parents who organised the Year 6 Graduation Dinner, which was held last Saturday night in the Parish Hall. Whilst there were many highlights, the Year 6 dance organised by Melissa Nixon, the highlighted video package created by Ross Kavanagh and Lisa Greenough and the spectacular cake made by Cathy Kostolias were fantastic. Thank you to all the parents who attended the dinner and for your support this year. The children certainly had a wonderful night.

Carols on the Lawn
Thank you to the families who attended the St Mary's, CBC and PCW joint Christmas Carols last Thursday night on the front lawn of PCW Melbourne. It was fabulous to hear the wonderful singing from the students at all three schools. Thank you to Janelle Adams who has led the Choir so enthusiastically all year and Ruth Crispin for her work in organising the link between the three schools.

St Mary’s Carols and Disco
On Thursday 10th December a whole school ‘Carols, Picnic and Disco Night’ has been organised to commence at 6:00pm in the Church. The Disco (Year 4 classroom) and Picnic (Basketball Court) will start at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:15pm.

Year 6 Graduation
On Monday 14th December we celebrate the Year 6 Graduation. The Liturgy will commence at 6:00pm. This will be a great opportunity for the whole school to celebrate the Year 6 Graduation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday  10th December: Carols & Disco
Monday  14th December: Student Reports go home
Monday  14th December: Year 6 Graduation Mass
Thursday  17th December: End of Term – Student's breakup at 1pm
After Care is available until 6pm, booking is essential

2016 Term 1 Commences

Thursday  28th January 2016: School Begins 8:55am
Friday  19th February 2016: Pupil Free Day (Staff preparing for School Review)
Christmas Eve Parish Mass (Wednesday 24th December)
Our next Parish Mass will be on Wednesday 24th December at 7.00pm. All families are invited to attend.

2016 School Improvement Framework (School Review)
In April 2016 we will be undertaking a School Review. This process occurs every four years and it allows the school to evaluate its school improvement foci and initiate a new four year cycle of improvement. To assist with this review the school will have a Pupil Free Day on Friday 19th February where all teachers will evaluate the learning and teaching component for the review.

End Of Year Events
The following activities have been organised:

**Thursday 10th December**  St Mary’s whole School Carols and disco/picnic night has been organised to commence at 6.00pm.

**Monday 14th December** A whole school celebration of the Year 6 Graduation Mass commencing at 6.00 pm.

2016 Classes
I am happy to announce the following teachers, classes and structures for 2016. For the first time we will have fourteen classes. This is an increase of one class from this year.

- **Foundation F** Jacqui Fleming
- **Foundation T** Freda Tahtouh (4 days) and Catherine LeHunt (1 day)
- **Year 1J** Therese John (3 days) and Jane Davy (2 days)
- **Year 1S** Stephanie Schultz
- **Year 2B** Gabrielle Berends
- **Year 2M** Kate Morgan
- **Year 3M** Maureen McDonald (3 days) and Lisa McCarthy (2 days)
- **Year 3R** Simon Raines
- **Year 4F** Ben Fahey (2 ½ days) and Eleanor Colaneri (2 ½ days)
- **Year 4O** Brigitte O’Shea (Yr 4 will be in the flexible learning space in the Berchmans Centre)
- **Year 5M** Samantha Malin
- **Year 5** To be announced
- **Year 6B** Claire Butson
- **Year 6C** Ruth Crispin (Yr 6 will be in the flexible learning space on the Senior Campus)

**Administration Officer (Mon -Thurs)** Erica Nastopoulos
**Administration Support** Robbie Bartlett / Janelle Adams
**Reading Recovery** Paula Incretolli
**Number Intervention** Anna Side
**Library** Daniela Borgese (3 days)
**Italian** Carmel Vozzo (2 ½ days)
**Physical Education (P-2)** Christine Kidman (1 day)
**Physical Education (3-6)** Matt Ottobre (1 ½ days)

**Teaching Assistants** To be announced
**Replacement Teachers** Jane Davy (2 days)
Eleanor Colaneri (3 days)
Catherine LeHunt (1 day)
Lisa McCarthy (2 days)

**Piano** To be announced
**Guitar** (Friday) Metro Music

We congratulate and thank Anna Borella who retires at the end of the year. As I mentioned in the last newsletter Anna has made a significant contribution over her thirty-three years here at St Mary’s. We thank Scott Waterson for his contribution to St Mary’s as he relocates to Port Stephens in New South Wales. We also thank Clare Sabatino (Reading Recovery) and Judi Dellar (Teaching Assistant) for their work this year. We wish them all the best for the future. The Parish School Community will miss Anna, Clare, Judi and Scott next year.

There will be a special newsletter next Thursday 17th December. That will be the final newsletter for the year.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

*Gerard Lewis*
END OF YEAR EVENT

Thursday 10th December       Whole School Carols & Disco Night 6pm
Monday 14th December        End of School Year Mass 6pm
Our Mass is a celebration of the end of the year and Year 6 Graduation. All students must attend.

STUDENT BREAK-UP 2015

Thursday 17th December       1pm
Aftercare will be available from 1pm to 6pm, please do book your child in.

SCHOOL FEES
A reminder that all school fees must be finalised as soon as possible.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS
School holiday programs are available from the school office foyer.

LIBRARY NEWS
It is with great sadness that I say farewell to St Mary’s. I have enjoyed thirty-three wonderful years here. I will take these memories with me and treasure them forever.
I thank the past principals and Mr Gerard Lewis for their leadership, support and guidance. With their encouragement, I achieved so much in my teaching career of forty-five years.
To the many staff I have taught with. We have enjoyed so many happy times, worked side by side, and shared our life stories. Thank you for your kindness and care towards me.
Also, to the hundreds of students I have taught, I wish you all the best that life can bring. Remembered to keep reading and let your imaginations fly!
To the parents, I have known many of you for a long time. Thank you for all your support and friendship. Our chats and laughs made school a happy place to be.
St Mary’s has been a big part of my life. I have seen so many changes. It is difficult to leave, but I am sure I will be around in the future.
Good-bye St Mary's, you will always have a special place in my heart. Happy Reading!    Anna Borella (Librarian)

LITERACY NEWS
It’s that time of the year to celebrate our wonderful results in Literacy and reflect on the improvements made by all the students at St. Mary’s. We would not be able to achieve such successes without the support of Parent Helpers in the classrooms. Literacy programs, especially in the junior years, would not be able to run so smoothly if not for the time and commitment given by parents/carers. On behalf of the school I extend a big thankyou to you all and hope to see you, and hopefully some new recruits, next year when we do it all over again. I hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to work in classrooms assisting students and teachers in their literacy programs.
Our Home Reading Program will finish on Friday 11th December so could all books be returned. Thank you for hearing your children read every night, for reading to them and for reading with them. I strongly encourage your children to continue reading over the Summer holidays and engage in activities which have a beneficial impact on learning. Remember to always make reading a happy time! I also would encourage your children to write over the holidays. A holiday journal is a great way to keep those wonderful experiences and memories alive for years to come. Most importantly have a good rest and enjoy the relaxing activities of Summer. Happy Holidays to everyone and Thank you!    Paula Increto - Literacy Leader

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE
The administration and setting up of accounts is nearly complete however as the year is nearly over, we have decided that we will launch GAFE in 2016. This means if you haven’t yet brought back your permission slip, please do so before the end of the year so your child will be ready to begin using GAFE early next year. Ben Fahey – Deputy Principal

PARENT REPS FOR 2016
Have you considered being a classroom representative? Now is the time to consider being a Class Rep for 2016. If you would like to be involved in this important role for 2016, please signal your interest via email to Ben Fahey. bfahey@smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au
Ben Fahey – Community Leader
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
If anyone is able to help out on Wednesday morning at 9am to help put together the hampers it would be much appreciated. Currently we have a few volunteers however it would be great to have a few more helping hands. Please speak to Ben Fahey if you are able to help.

ST MARY’S PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION TIMETABLE
Thursday 24th December 7:00pm Family Mass
11:30pm Christmas Carols
12:00am Midnight Mass
Friday 25th December 9:00am Christmas Mass
10:30am Christmas Mass  No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Extend OSHC at St Mary’s - Primary School

Our recap
Last week we were busy in the kitchen! The children enjoyed cooking using their imaginations by looking though the pantry and fridge ingredients and coming up with a recipe. We decided to make Chewy Anzac Biscuits and Mango Pancakes. Yum!! We have also been busy trying out our new toys, board games and reading a stack of new books. Thank you to all children and parents for being so welcoming.  

Talitha, Team Leader

Our Extend Superstar is.... John Williams for always helping pack up. Well done John!

Activities for this week:
Monday 7 December:  Olympic Championships!
Wednesday 9 December:  Next Year’s Birthday Chart
Friday 11 December:  Science Experiment: Water on the move

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!
Booking deadline:  Book for January by Monday 21 December

We have heaps of fun activities planned these school holidays and can’t wait for you to attend! Participate in an epic egg drop challenge, make your own burlap pillow, and play lots of sport including cricket and basketball! Join in on all this and more at Extend’s Summer Holiday Program.

To check out what’s on visit our website at extend.com.au and book via the Parent Portal.

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Parent & Friends Committee Update

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

Our Final P & F Update For 2015!
What a successful fundraising year it’s been and we could not have accomplished it without your support. The P & F Management Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to the St Mary’s Primary School community who have generously donated to the P & F Committee throughout 2015 helping to exceed the P & F fundraising goal of $15,000. The last fundraising event for 2015 was the Year 4 Cake Stall and we can confirm that the amount raised was $868.90.

Thank You To The 2015 Class Reps
The fundraising successes of this year are a direct result of the enthusiastic work put in by our sixteen Class Reps who coordinated their Year’s P & F events.

Class Reps for 2015
Year Foundation:  Trinity Farrell & Leah Lloyd-Smith - Footie Day Lunch & Cake Stall
Year 1:  Emma Wilson & Louise Dewar - Easter Egg Raffle & Cake Stall
Year 2:  Emelinda Siruelo, Sarah Di Dio, Grace Park & Mish Vlasak - Disco & Cake Stall
Year 3:  Dani Bauman & Donna Martin - Mother’s Day Stall & Cake Stall
Year 4:  Jane Leroi, Vanessa Sirotic & Louise Dewar - Father’s Day Breakfast & Cake Stall
Year 5:  Lucy Sparke & Elly Howarth - My School Raffle, Phillippa’s Hot Cross Bun Drive & Cake Stall
Year 6:  Phyllis Litsas - Sport Carnival BBQ & two Cake Stalls  (*all funds raised went to the Year 6 Graduation)
We would like to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support to the P & F Committee as well as your contribution in effectively managing communications between your class teacher and parents groups. Without your dedication and input the P & F Committee could not have reached the final fundraising tally of $19,508.48. These funds will contribute to the fundraising goals for 2015 which were:

1. Contribution towards the renovations of our Parish Hall
2. Supporting the Year 6 Graduation
3. Art supplies

P & F Management Committee and Treasurer Vacancies Update

On behalf of the P & F Committee we would like to thank Sharyn Clarke for her time and efforts in performing the very important role of P & F Treasurer these last two years. The P & F Management Committee members, George Dellas and Bernie Curtis, will also be standing down with Sharyn due to their two year term also coming to an end. We have enjoyed our two year tenure in the P & F Management Committee positions we have worked behind the scenes at establishing the necessary structures to be implemented to support an ongoing and vibrant P & F Committee into the future.

We are very excited and honoured to officially announce that all three of these vacancies have now been filled. Sharyn, George and Bernie on behalf of the P & F Committee would like to welcome the incoming Treasurer and P & F Management Committee for 2016:

- Sonia Tripolitano will be taking on the role of P & F Treasurer.
- Anoushka Bondar and Ben Merlin will be taking over the joint roles of the P & F Management Committee.

We wish these three parents all the very best as they take over the reins in steering and navigating the P & F Committee into 2016. We are privileged to have inspired the enthusiasm and drive from these Foundation Year parents to get involved in these roles. Please join us in congratulating them on their new roles and please make them feel welcome as they begin to take over the reins in the following weeks.

Class Reps for 2016

We anticipate by now you have received the Class Rep nomination form, which was distributed and put in your child’s bag last week. We understand that while you do not know what class your child will be in next year we would still ask that you at least express your interest in being a Class Rep for your child’s year in 2016. By knowing the names of parents/guardians who are interested in coming on board hugely assists us in planning for 2016 so please don’t hesitate to contact either your current Class Rep, the P & F Management Committee or you can email Ben Fahey directly with your expressions of interest. Ben’s email address is bfahey@smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au.

Year 6 Graduation Update

On behalf of the Year 6 parents we would like to thank the St Mary’s community who have supported the various P & F fundraising events and have helped raise funds for the Year 6 Graduation. These events include the two Year 6 Cake stalls, which took place in Term 2 and Term 3 and raised $1,231.70 and $908.15 respectively. Most recently the Year 6 parents/guardians hosted the Sports Carnival BBQ and raised a total of $1,616.70. The grand total raised by the school for the Year 6 Graduation came to $3,756.55.

A Message from the Year 6 Graduation Committee

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Year 6 parents for the time and effort that was put into organising and supporting St Mary’s 2015 Year 6 Graduates; a job well done. We had a wonderful time on Saturday night. The kids were super excited to celebrate their time at St Mary’s and are also looking forward to the Graduation Mass. An extra special thanks to Mr Lewis and Miss Paula for all the support during the year and to the St Mary’s Community for supporting our fundraising events. Finally thank you to the St Mary’s P & F Committee for their support and for donating the children’s farewell gifts – a St Mary’s Graduation Bear (see picture). These bears will be presented by the P & F Committee to the students at assembly!
A Message from the P & F Committee to the Year 6 Students
On behalf of the P & F Committee and to all the Year 6 students we wish you well as you prepare for your onward journey beyond St Mary’s Primary School. Your Year 6 class is the end of an era at St Mary’s with the one class enrolment coming to an end. From now on there will be fourteen classes instead of thirteen at St Mary’s. You will be remembered fondly for the special contributions your unique student and parent group has brought to St Mary’s. You will be sadly missed but we know that a piece of St Mary's will always remain in your hearts.

Year 6 Graduation Mass
Next Monday 14th December all St Mary’s families are invited to attend the Year 6 Graduation Mass in the Parish Church at 6pm. It is always a great night and a reminder of how much the Year 6 students have learnt and achieved in their time at St Mary’s. We look forward to seeing you all there to formally farewell our Year 6 students.

School Wide Event Group (SWEG) Update
Hi everyone. Christmas is fast approaching and the school Term is coming to an end, but the SWEG Team have been busy with ideas for next year. Some suggestions that we will look into for next year are a Dinner/Dance Social Night with a few games, a school calendar, which will have pictures from each class for 2017 and a possible mid-year Twilight Market / Food Market. So meanwhile everyone rest well and have a great Christmas and we will see you all in the new year ready and eager to raise some money for some school initiatives with great community spirit.

Second Hand Uniform Stall – Foundation Families
Thank you to all those who helped support the Second Hand Uniform stall that was held this Monday in conjunction with the second Orientation day for the new 2016 Foundation students. New parents responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to purchase school uniform items at a discounted price. The stall was certainly a worthwhile exercise and we appreciate all the school uniform donations that were generously donated by parents/guardians. A total of $235 was raised on the day and all excess stock will be kept in storage for the next Second Hand Stall at the end of Term 1 in preparation for the winter uniform season. When you are doing your end of year uniform stock take, we encourage you to save school items that no longer fit your children and consider donating them to our Second Hand Uniform stall.

Thank you to Bakers Delight Balaclava for contributing 5% of every purchase made by St Mary Primary School families to our fundraising efforts. Don’t forget to mention you are from St Mary’s each time you visit the Balaclava branch over the summer holidays. The tally for 2015 will be announced at the beginning of Term 1, 2016.

P & F Calendar of Events for Term 4:
The Year 2 P & F School Disco Event is scheduled for this Thursday 10th December 2015 after the School Carols night at St Mary’s Church. The disco will take place in the Berchmans Centre. Parents can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the school grounds. A friendly reminder to please don’t forget to bring adequate water for your child/children as from past experiences we know they build up a sweat with all that disco dancing!

“Welcome” Drinks for 2015
The Year 5 Class Reps are currently planning the 2016 Welcome Drinks. We look forward to what fresh ideas they bring to the table for next year’s event. We anticipate that you will all be ready to mingle and join your new and old school parent friends for a drink or two while welcoming in the new Foundation families for 2016. Watch out for the date which will be announced in early 2016.

The P & F Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe and happy summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2016 for another year of building an even stronger community spirit as well as a fun year of fundraising.

The official Total Raised for 2015 - $19,508.48
Thank you for all your support!
St Mary’s Christmas Carols & Disco
Thursday 10th December

Carols begin @ 6pm in the Church

Bring a picnic to enjoy after the carols on the top court

Disco to follow after the carols in the Year 4 classroom