**From the Principal’s Desk:**

**Years 5 & 6 Camp**
Thank you to Paula Incretolli, Sam Malin, Claire Butson, Ben Fahey, Daniela Borgese and Dermot Avon for all their dedication, organisation and extra supervision on the Years 5 & 6 Camp at Rumbug last week. The work and care of these dedicated adults certainly enabled the children to have an enjoyable time.

Thank you to the wonderful parents who supplied each of the supervising teachers with a meal and drinks on their arrival back at school last Friday night. The teachers were over whelmed with your generosity.

**Presentation To Our New Students**
At last Monday’s assembly each of the Foundation students, new students and teachers within the school were presented with an Indigenous plant to welcome them to St Mary’s. Thank you to the St Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-op who provided the plants to us at a very reasonable price.
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.

Ash Wednesday
This Wednesday 18th February we commence Lent with Ash Wednesday. All students will be attending the Parish Mass at 9:15am. All parents are welcome to attend this 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. In the mornings please make sure that you drop your children off at the crossing near the church rather than at the top of the presbytery drive. This allows for a clearing of congestion on Westbury Street.

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. After-Care will commence at 1:00pm for those students who normally attend this program. For the first time parents will be able to book their interviews online. Bookings for the meetings will close on Wednesday at lunchtime. Please make sure that you have booked in your meeting time. Please book your meeting time at www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the code 6UMKU.

School Commences at 8:55am
A reminder to you that school commences at 8:55am and not 9:00am. Too many students are arriving at school after the bell has rung. It is important the students are here on time so that the day and the opening school prayer can begin without any disruptions. Please make sure that your children arrive on time between 8:40am and 8:55am.

Recess
At morning tea time 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).

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
School Assembly
The school assemblies will continue this year at 3.00pm each Monday afternoon. For Semester one, they will be held in the church. All parents are welcome to join us at the start of each week. Mr Fahey will be leading the assemblies this Term. Mrs McDonald will lead them in Term 2, Mrs John will lead them in Term 3 and Miss Tahtouh will lead them in Term 4.

Parents and Friends Committee
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 or Ben Fahey the School Community Leader 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.

Parish Hall
In the next couple of weeks we will commence electrical work on the Parish Hall. This is the first stage in making the hall viable for the students to use regularly.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

Gerard Lewis
Principal

INDIVIDUAL PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS
Thursday 19th February from 1:30pm to 8pm
Please note: Students are dismissed at 1pm

ST MARY’S OPEN DAY
For Future Enrolments
Sunday 22nd February from 10:30am to 12pm

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016
We are currently taking enrolments for next year. If you have a family member who is scheduled to start next year please come to the office and obtain an Enrolment Form or download it from our website, as places are filling up quickly and numbers are limited.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – Wednesday 18th March
Information will go home regarding the school photos next month. We ask that the children wear their correct school SUMMER UNIFORM – no coloured ribbons or socks. Girls navy socks and boys grey socks are the uniform colour. Family portrait envelopes can be collected at the office next week.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
We would like to welcome back our experienced School Counsellor, Aly. She specialises in providing high quality school counselling services that include: self-esteem, bullying challenges, grief & loss due to parental separation and anxiety including a range of other issues that are specifically tailored to our child’s needs. Aly’s mission is to empower young people with the knowledge and confidence to work through issues in their own lives. Each child can have up to 10 individual sessions as well as 10 group sessions per year with a Mental Health Plan from their GP. This is at NO cost to the families. All members of the family can access these counselling services via the school. Please see Therese John.

STUDENT BANKING
Student Banking will commence on Thursday 26th February and new members are welcome. Student banking will be processed on the last Thursday of each month with a minimum deposit of $10.00.
RE NEWS - Ash Wednesday and Lent
Ash Wednesday is the first day in the Lenten season. When we go to the Mass on Ash Wednesday our foreheads are marked with blessed ashes in the form of a cross to show that, as followers of Christ, we are entering into a time of repentance and prayer. This is the period of forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Lent finishes on Holy Thursday and leads into the Triduum - the great Three Days, which celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time when we prepare for the greatest season in the Church’s Liturgical year – Easter. It is a time when we pray and engage in acts of service to others.
Some of the customs and practices associated with this time of the year for Christians are:
- Receiving ashes of Ash Wednesday,
- Fasting and eating simpler foods,
- Extra time given to prayer,
- Extra focus on generosity and giving to others (Project Compassion).
The season of Lent presents families with an opportunity to examine our family life and to re-commit ourselves to the Christian practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Each of us is invited to do these things as individuals, but we can also do one or more actions as a family. Ash Wednesday is a good time for families to pray together and to plan the family's Lenten practices.
Gather as a family and read today's Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18. Remind yourselves that Jesus expected that his disciples would give alms, pray, and fast and that he gave instructions that when we do those things, they should not be done for show. Determine one way that your family will give alms during Lent to share what you have with people in need. Decide upon one way that your family will pray together during Lent and choose one thing that your family will give up during Lent as a reminder of your love for God. Agree to encourage one another in whatever Lenten promises each has made individually. Pray together that God will bless your family's Lenten promises by praying together today's psalm, Psalm 51, and/or praying the Lord's Prayer.
The eldest child from each family will bring home a Project Compassion Box this week.

LIBRARY NEWS
Welcome to 2015. It is hard to believe we are into another year.
Library Classes
Library classes have commenced and the students are happy to be borrowing and reading some great books. Remember that all students need to have a library bag; this protects the books from spills and is also a safe place to keep the books. Each class has a 45 minute session where they borrow, listen to stories and complete various activities:
- Tuesdays - Foundation, Year 1 and Year 4
- Wednesdays - Year 3, Year 2 and Year 5
- Thursdays - Year 6

Premier's Reading Challenge
The Challenge commences in the next few weeks. Notes will be sent out in the next newsletter. Watch out for these and fill in and return so we can enrol your children and start entering books.

Library Helpers
Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have been covering books already. To Narelle and Helen thank you. They keep the pile of books down and the resources can be quickly put on shelves for borrowing. Wonderful! If there are any other people with time to spare please come and see me. Happy Reading! – Anna Borella – Librarian

HELP NEEDED - COOKING
Retired Christian Brothers are looking for someone to prepare lunch for a total of 13 brothers two days per week, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Commencement time is 9.30am until 2.30pm. Salary to be confirmed by Supervisor. For additional information please contact Rita, (supervisor) on 9521 2542.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Many thanks for the generosity of Parishioners who contributed $2014 at Christmas Masses for St Vincent de Paul. More than 120 Christmas Hampers were distributed in December. These were provided by the St Vincent de Paul Conference, St Mary's School, CBC, and the Commonwealth Bank. Thanks also to St Mary's School and CBC for their Christmas gifts for the needy St Mary's Conference is spending around $6000 per month to assist people in need in East St Kilda. Donations, bequests, new members, and offers of assistance are always welcome. Phone Les on 9510-2222 for more information.

Maureen McDonald – Education In Faith Leader

Julie Purdey – St Mary's Parish Manager

Anna Borella – Librarian

Les Marmo – St Vincent De Paul
Year 6 Students Work

In Year 6 we have been learning about what makes a good community. We have been exploring what the word “community” means, how it is enacted in our lives and how this concept applies to St. Mary’s School. The students were asked to write their thoughts and ideas about their school community and we will share some of their writing throughout this term. Happy reading from Year 6.

What Makes St. Mary’s School a Welcoming Community

By Emily Wicks

Hi, I am Emily, I am new at St. Mary’s. I thought that since we were doing something about St. Mary’s community I would do “welcoming”, as I have recently experienced this. I have had many welcoming experiences since I started at St. Mary’s, and I would like to share them with you as part of my writing.

On my first day we were walking to school, and my sister Liv and I, were working out whose classroom we would go to first. I wanted to go last and Liv wanted to go first, so we agreed to go in that order. When we got there mum helped Liv get settled in and then took me over to my classroom. I was nervous and a bit shy at first. When I walked in I just looked around, but then not long after, Trinity introduced herself to me, then there was a big wave of girls introducing themselves to me. At play lunch I got asked by a lot of girls if I would play with them, so we ended up playing a big game of crocodile. At lunch I played soccer with most of the year. When I went home I was happy with my first day.

When I got there on my second day I got told that we would meet our buddies. Now I thought that I wouldn’t get a buddy as we met our buddies in Year 5 back in Sydney. So when I heard we were getting buddies I got excited (just like any girl would). I was partnered with Tyler and we got given Domenic and Rocco. This shows St. Mary’s is trying hard to welcome the new Foundations by giving them a buddy. It shows that St. Mary’s was giving them someone to lead them through their first year at “big school”. This is another great way that St. Mary’s is giving back to the mums and dads of the Foundations by saying, “Don’t worry, your little ones are in the safe and responsible hands of our trusted Year Sixes”. Another way St. Mary’s school community is welcoming.

On my first day of school, as I said before, my mum walked in with me. Just like the girls introduced themselves to me, the parents, especially the mums, did the same. After Trinity introduced herself to me, a mum saw my mum and she introduced herself. You will never guess what happened next….that mum told the group she was talking to about my mum and they introduced themselves. That just shows that the parents of the children are just as welcoming as the kids. It’s nice to know that, as well as I am being looked after, so is my mum.

This all shows that St. Mary’s is welcoming in so many different ways, it’s like a whole other family I have become part of.

What Makes St Mary’s a Great Community

By Thea Mallios

I think St. Mary’s is a great community because of the bonds you make with the students and teachers and other people. Teachers help you to learn and when I started in Year 3 I was scared, but I knew that I was in a safe, responsible, caring place.

St. Mary’s have lots of days that show that we are a fun community because of all the cake stalls, footy days, sports carnivals, casual clothes days and all those other fun events.

I think St. Mary’s is a great school because the Year 6s help the Foundations and everyone helps each other, especially the teachers help a lot. That’s why I think St. Mary’s is a great school community.

What Makes St. Mary’s a Great School Community

By Tyler Lazzaro

I think St. Mary’s is a great school community because everybody is the nicest they can be and teachers put in a lot of hard work and teach us heaps and heaps. This community is a great community because it always has something on. My favourite activity is probably the Sports Carnival. This community is also a very safe community. It has a lot of security and is really good for first aide and it will take care of you no matter what. We have a beautiful church that can fit our whole school for our assemblies on Monday afternoons. We also associate with PCW and CBC with plays, concerts and choir. Every second year CBC lets us use their hall for concerts. And this builds community.
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.

Class Representatives for 2015
Thank you to the eight parents who have already put themselves forward to be Class Rep for their child’s year in 2015. It is great to see such fantastic volunteer enthusiasm as we ramp up to commence P&F fundraising for 2015. Currently we are still looking for five more willing parents to become Class Reps for Years 2B, 2M, 3R, 4M & 4S.

What does the Class Rep role involve?
- 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 fund raising 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

The deadline for all nominations is this Friday 20 February so if you’ve been thinking about putting yourself forward please email your nomination to Ben Fahey; bfahey@smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au or the P & F Management Committee, either George Dellas; george@infocus.com.au or Bernie Curtis; bernie@curtis.org.au

P & F Committee Fundraising Goals for 2015
This year, the P & F Committee are aiming to raise $15,000 that will go towards:
1. Renovating our Parish hall
2. Interactive TV’s for Classrooms
3. Supporting the Year 6 Graduation
4. Art supplies

We are looking forward to another exciting and team spirited year of fundraising with our newly nominated Class Representatives along with all parents, friends and guardians of our wonderful St Mary’s Primary School community.

St. Mary’s Primary School Open Day – Parent Volunteers Required 22nd Feb 2015
Sunday 22nd February will be the official Opening Mass for St Mary’s Primary school starting at 9am. We would like to invite all families to attend as we formally commence the new school year.
Following Mass and from 10.30am to 12noon St Mary’s will be hosting our Open Day which coincides with the Christian Brothers School (CBC) and Presentation College Windsor (PCW) Melbourne Open days which commence in the early afternoon.
The P & F Committee have been asked to seek parent volunteers to be at St Mary’s on the day to assist the teachers in providing parent feedback to new perspective parents to our school. The Year 6 students will also be in attendance on the day to show parents around the school. If you are able to make yourself available please let Gerard know.

“Welcome Drinks” Night For 2015
You are invited to join us for the St Mary’s Welcome Drinks on Friday 13th March at 7pm at the newly renovated function room at the Dick Whittington Tavern on Chapel St (near Inkerman St corner).
We had hoped to host the Welcome drinks earlier in Term 1, but due to delays in the renovations at the Tavern, the date was rescheduled.
For those of you that are new to St Mary’s the night will be a chance for all new families to the school to meet parents/guardians from your child’s class as well as to meet other families from St Mary’s.

Tickets are on sale now through Try Bookings and are priced at $21 (plus a 30cents booking fee) per head which covers the cost of some finger food during the night. Drinks can be purchased at normal bar prices.
So put the date in your diary, organise a baby sitter and come out and have some fun!
To book your tickets please click on the link below and follow the prompts; http://www.trybooking.com/GZEM
We look forward to seeing you there on the night!
SWEG (School Wide Events Group) Update
The School Wide Events Group (SWEG) is an arm of the Parent & Friends Committee that are charged with organising an annual social event. The five volunteers have gathered to meet to bring our school community together for a significant peak fundraising and social event.

Thus far we have been supported by the P&F and the 2014 Junofest volunteers who blazed the way. This year please SAVE THE DATE to come and join in the fun at the 2015 Junofest!

Date: Friday 19th June at the Tivoli German Club
Time: 7pm until late
Venue: Tivoli German Club
291 Dandenong Rd
Windsor

At this stage, arranging a babysitter and spreading the word about our big event is the best way to show your support. We will be calling on volunteers to assist with specific tasks, and seeking donations to auction at a later date.

Second Hand Uniform Stall
Thank you to all parents who donated uniforms to assist run a Second Hand Uniform Stall late last year. As there was not enough stock to host a stall in 2014 we are currently topping up supplies with some of our outgoing Year 6 parents donating their children’s old uniforms to St Mary’s. Once stock levels are sufficient to run a stall then we will look at setting a stall date. Meanwhile if you have any uniforms that you would like to pass on please feel free to contact the P & F Management Committee. We would ask that all uniforms are freshly laundered and are of good enough quality to fit the standards we expect of our uniforms at St Mary’s.

If you would like to get involved in running these stalls please put your name forward to George Dellas; george@in-focus.com.au or Bernie Curtis; bernie@curtis.org.au

P & F Calendar of Events for Term 1: February 2015

The Year 2 Cake Stall is organised for Friday 27th of February at 3.00pm. Get ready to start the year with the Year 2 parents/guardians organising the first cake stall for 2015. Come and enjoy the yummy cakes, savouries and treats prepared by the Year 2 parents/guardians that will be available to purchase on the day.

P & F Events for March 2015

Year 3 Cake Stall is scheduled for Friday 20th of March.

Twilight Sports Carnival is organised for Wednesday 25th March 2015. More details to follow once venue is confirmed.

Easter Events Keep an eye on this space for more Easter fundraising activities. It’s early this year

P & F Committee Meetings for 2015

The first P&F Committee meeting for 2015 will be held on Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm at the Berchmans Centre. The P&F Committee Meetings are open to all parents, friends and guardians of St Mary’s Primary School. We value your participation and hope that you will be able to attend one of the six P&F meetings that are scheduled for this year.

Next Newsletter
Please note the P & F calendar of events, P & F meeting schedule and announcement of our Class Reps for 2015 will be released in the next newsletter on 2 March 2015.

2015 FUND RAISING GOAL $15,000
Ready, Set, Let’s Fundraise
$660.00
Have you accessed our Parent Portal?
If you have used Extend in the past you may have already heard all about our Parent Portal. Remember, there are many things you can do on the Parent Portal including managing your bookings, updating your personal and child details, and updating your payment information. If you are an existing account holder of Extend and are not sure of what your Parent Portal login details are, please contact our Customer Service team on 1300 366 437 or email enquiries@extend.com.au.

New Parents: Enrol online
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.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au
STONNINGTON WEEKLY NEWSFASH

YOUNG LOCAL LEADERS PROGRAM 2015 – STONNINGTON YOUTH SERVICES

Get young people involved:
- Take the lead in developing a tangible community project in the Stonnington area
- Get a unique opportunity to develop time management, leadership and communications skills
- Be part of a close team that is responsible for rolling up their sleeves and making real change
- Do something you’re passionate about, outside your school or university
- Receive ongoing support and advice from YMCA and Stonnington Youth Service staff
- Meet other like-minded young people
- Gain community service hours you may need for school
- Free of charge and open to all young people but priority is given to those who live in the City of Stonnington
- Have fun!

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<tr>
<th>Sunday 15th March</th>
<th>YLLP Induction day - Stonnington Youth services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday evenings 6.00-8.30pm</td>
<td>Leadership Development sessions - Stonnington Youth Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th March - Monday 27th April</td>
<td>Project development weekend - YMCA Camp, Lake Dewar</td>
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<td>Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd May</td>
<td>Project planning and implementation - Stonnington Youth Services</td>
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<td>Monday 14th September</td>
<td>YLLP Evaluation</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>YLLP Celebration</td>
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Contact Asunta Akeri for further information: aakeri@stonnington.vic.gov.au

THE PUSH STAGE – ST KILDA FESTIVAL 2015

The Push, FReeZA and the Cities of Stonnington, Port Phillip, Kingston and Bayside present an all-ages drug/alcohol/smoke-free music stage by and for young people at the St Kilda Festival. Join Melbourne’s biggest FREE celebration of summer, showcasing Australian artists and talents against the spectacular natural beauty of the St Kilda foreshore!

WHEN: SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2015

Line up
12.00PM GEORGIA POWELL
1.40PM GROOVE PLATOON
3.20PM MAX GOES TO HOLLYWOOD
12.50PM THE BLASHKI BROTHERS
2.30PM BLOOMFIELD
4.15PM LUCA BRASI

For more information about the Festival or the Push Stage please visit St Kilda Festival

STONNINGTON’S SOUNDSLIKE PRODUCTIONS FReeZA COMMITTEE RECRUITING NOW

The Soundslike Productions FReeZA committee is a youth participation project supported by the City of Stonnington Youth Services. The committee members organise a number of music and cultural events around Stonnington. The group is made up of passionate, motivated young people aged 12-25 who are committed to making positive changes for young people in the Stonnington community. Soundslike Productions
For further information, phone 8290 7020 or email soundslike@stonnington.vic.gov.au
STATE SCHOOLS’ RELIEF UNIFORM ASSISTANCE

State Schools’ Relief is a not-for-profit Victorian charity that provides government school students with financial assistance for uniform and footwear.

How to apply

State Schools’ Relief responds to requests from principals, assistant principals and welfare coordinators. Parents or carers who are struggling financially to provide their child’s uniform should make an appointment with their school principal, assistant principal or welfare coordinator to discuss their situation.

If you have a question about an application for State Schools’ Relief assistance, contact your school directly.

Eligibility

State Schools’ Relief support any student attending a Victorian government school on the advice of the school if parents or carers are facing one or more of the following:

- health issues resulting in serious financial difficulty
- house fires where school clothing is lost
- natural disasters
- serious financial difficulty

For more information go to State Schools Relief

BROTHERHOOD ST LAWRENCE – LUNCHTIME SEMINARS

The Research and Policy Centre fosters dialogue through research events including a lunchtime seminar series, conferences and workshops, such as the social inclusion workshops program. For upcoming events see What’s on. Many research events are open to researchers, students and other interested members of the public. Please RSVP tojdouglas@bsl.org.au if you wish to attend a seminar, or register to get updates for advance notice of research events.

Our lunchtime seminar series runs during university semesters, usually on Thursdays, 12 noon to 1 pm (unless indicated otherwise) at 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, in Father Tucker’s Room.

STONNINGTON YOUTH TEAM LEADER

Stonnington Youth & Adventure Playground Services would like to warmly welcome Sharni MacDonald into the role of Youth Team Leader. Sharni MacDonald brings a wealth of experience and skill having been the Client Services Manager at St Kilda Youth Services for the previous 6 years. Sharni will be fulfilling the maternity leave position for 1 year. Sharni commences work on Monday 9th February, welcome Sharni!

STONNINGTON YOUTH NETWORK MEETING – TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Malvern Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 am – 12pm

Topic: Family Violence

Presenters: Alice Coakes Manager of the Salvation Army Family Violence Services; & Mat O’Neill who is the Men’s Casework Counsellor in the Men’s Behavioural Change Program at Inner South Community Health Services.

Content:

- Safety Plans
- Cycle of violence
- Tips on conversations around Family Violence
- Perpetrators
- Referral points

RSVP: apobucky@stonnington.vic.gov.au