From the Principal's Desk:

Welcome to St Mary's for 2016
I hope you all had a great holiday and are rested, ready to begin an exciting 2016. 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 303 children attending St Mary's.
New Staff
A big welcome back to Ruth Crispin (Year 6C) and Lisa McCarthy (Year 3M) who have re-turned to St Mary’s and a warm welcome to Carrington Speed (Year 3S), Katie Bryan (Year 4B) and Chelsea Roche (Year 5R), who join the staff this year. We hope that their time with us is an enjoyable and rewarding one.

Sad News
St Mary's School and Parish Community were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Beata Jankowska-Smith during the holidays. Beata is the mother of Bruno who was a Year 6 student with us last year. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Anthony her partner and to Bruno.

New Families
With the start of 2016 we warmly welcome thirty-four 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:

Opening School Mass
The official opening Mass for the school year will be held on Sunday 28th 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. After Mass the staff from the three schools celebrated morning tea in the Hall. Thank you to Fr Moran for celebrating Mass with us and Carolina Horky who organised the morning tea.

Student Leadership at St Mary’s
Congratulations to the following students who were appointed School Leaders at the end of last year:

**School Captains**
Olivia Desiderio and Lucas Kennedy

**Vice Captains**
Christian Psirris and Amelie Siruelo

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

Recess
Due to the increased numbers and the restricted play area at recess, different classes each day have a separate recess time. An additional recess time will be from 10:30am – 10:55am. 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** – Year 3
- **Tuesday** – Years 1 & 2
- **Wednesday** - Foundation
- **Thursday** – Years 5 & 6
- **Friday** – Year 4

School Behaviour Policy
The St Mary’s school norms are an important component of our School Behaviour Policy. These norms will be continually highlighted throughout the year with the children. During the year you might like to discuss with your children examples of when they are respectful, responsible and safe in and outside the classroom.

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 the start of Term 1, 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 Sovereign Hill for their school Camp from Wednesday 9 – 11 March.

Parents and Friends Association (P & F)
We welcome Anoushka Bondar and Ben Merlin who are the new Leaders of the P & F Management Committee and Sonia Tripolitano who is the new P & F Treasurer. We hope that they enjoy their important roles for our school. 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 Anoushka, Ben or Ben Fahey 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.

Year Four and Year Six Open Learning Spaces
In the next few weeks the two open learning spaces in Years 4 and 6 will be fitted with flexible sliding walls. These dividing walls will make the classrooms flexible spaces which will enable the areas to be divided into smaller rooms if the teachers wish. This will allow the two teachers in each year level to cater for smaller or larger size groups, depending on the learning activities that the children are participating in.

Piano lessons
Presently we are in negotiation with a music company to provide lessons to the children in piano and other musical instruments. As soon as this arrangement has been organised letters will be sent home asking for interested parents to respond. Metro Music will continue providing guitar lessons this year. They will be occurring on Fridays.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

Gerard Lewis
Principal

PUPIL FREE DAY
Friday 19th February
No school for students

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.
CARE MONKEY SYSTEM
As you know we take the health and safety of our students very seriously. As a result we have adopted the Care Monkey system. We will be using Care Monkey in the best interest of the children whilst also reducing the burden on parents to fill out the same information on multiple forms throughout the year. CareMonkey is a user controlled solution that automates the process of gathering medical information, emergency numbers and permission forms. Over the next few weeks, you should receive an email from CareMonkey prompting you to set up and fill in your child’s medical details. If you do not receive this email please speak to Ben Fahey. We ask all parents to attend to this as soon as is possible in order to assist us to have the system operating to its full capacity. For further information and testimonials I encourage you to access the website: www.caremonkey.com.au

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)

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, they will commence next Monday 8th February.

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. Obesity is a childhood issue and our policy aims to teach children good food eating habits. We thank you for your cooperation.

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

Family Connection
Jesus’ statement that no prophet is accepted in his home town reminds us that it is often difficult to hear a challenging message from those who know us best, even if it is true. Perhaps we remember this aspect of our childhood and adolescence. We may have overlooked the wisdom and guidance of our parents, while allowing the voices of others—teachers, friends—to carry more weight, even when these people were telling us the same thing. Sunday’s Gospel provides an opportunity to talk about and to learn from such experiences.

As you gather as a family, consider proverbs or otherwise sayings that are familiar to your family (“Blood is thicker than water;” “All that glitters is not gold.”). Consider what these proverbs mean and whether you believe them to be true. Why or why not? Jesus challenges the people of Nazareth by reminding them of old sayings that seem to have a lot of truth in them. Read aloud today’s Gospel, Luke 4:21-30. Ask: What were the proverbs that Jesus quoted? (Physician, cure yourself; No prophet is accepted in his native place.) Consider the meaning of these proverbs and look for examples from your own family life that show their truth. Consider how your family might accept one another's wisdom and guidance and not reject the prophets in your midst.
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.

CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund) - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
CSEF provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school camps, excursions and sporting activities. If you hold a valid Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card (CRN) you may be eligible for CSEF. An application form is attached, please fill out and return to the school office by Friday 26th February 2016.

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.

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**

There is an annual enrolment fee per family which 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
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb __________________________ State __________ Postcode __________

Contact number _______________________________________

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ ☐ ☐ - ☐ OR

☐ Foster parent* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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<th>Child’s surname</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant ___________________________ Date ___/___/_____

VICTORIA State Government
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;

  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date
Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.