NEWSLETTER
Volume 2016 – Issue 13
Monday 29th August, 2016

Principal Gerard Lewis
Deputy Principal Ben Fahey
Education Support Erica Nastopoulos (Mon – Thurs)
Office Assistance Robbie Bartlett (Thurs) & Janelle Adams (Fri)

Teachers
Year FF Jacquie Fleming
Year 1J Therese John & Jane Davy
Year 2B Gabrielle Berends & Jane Davy
Year 3M Maureen McDonald & Lisa Mitchell
Year 4B Katie Bryan
Year 5M Samantha Malin
Year 6B Claire Butson
Reading Recovery Paula Incretolli
Library Daniela Borgese
Phys Ed (Junior) Chris Kidman
Number Intervention Anna Side
Visual Art Teacher Caroline Egan

Parish Priest Fr Joe Caddy
Freda Tahtouh & Catherine LeHunt
Stephanie Schultz
Kate Morgan
Carrington Speed
Ben Fahey & Eleanor Colaneri
Chelsea Roche & Catherine LeHunt
Ruth Crispin & Lisa Mitchell

Library Support Janelle Adams (Wed)
Phys Ed (Senior) Matt Ottobre
Teaching Assistant Susan Botta

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 1st September Whole School Concert 7pm & Matinee 11am
Friday 9th September Year 3 Eucharist Reflection Day
Friday 9th September Cake Stall Year 6 Hosting
Sunday 11th September Year 3 & 4 Parish Mass
Thursday 15th September St Mary’s Footy Day
Friday 16th September End of Term – Student's breakup at 1pm

Term 4 commences
Monday 3rd October School Begins 8:55am

From the Principal’s Desk:

New Parish Priest - Fr Joe Caddy
Last week we welcomed our new Parish Priest Fr Joe Caddy to St Mary’s. Fr Caddy is also the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Care Melbourne. He was previously Parish Priest of All Saints Parish in Fitzroy. Earlier this year he was appointed Episcopal Vicar (Archbishop’s representative) for Social Services in the Melbourne Archdiocese. We hope that Fr Caddy has a wonderful time here at St Mary’s and we look forward to working closely with him.

Years 3 & 4 School Camp to Anglesea
Last week the Years 3 & 4 children attended the YMCA Camp at Anglesea. The children enjoyed the Camp immensely and their behaviour was outstanding. Thank you to Ben Fahey, Eleanor Colaneri, Katie Bryan, Maureen McDonald, Carrington Speed, Lisa Mitchell, Matt Ottobre and Peter Kostolias for their wonderful supervision and care of the children over those three days. On behalf of the teachers I would like to thank the parents of Years 3 & 4 for their generosity in providing each adult supervisor a scrumptious dinner pack for last Friday night.

Farewell Lisa Mitchell
Last Friday Lisa Mitchell finished her role as replacement teacher in Years 3 and 6. We wish Lisa all the very best as she starts a new position in educational administration. Anna Side (Year 3) and Catherine Le Hunt (Year 6) will be replacing Lisa until the end of the year.
**Bugsy Malone – CBC and PCW Musical**

Congratulations to the students in Years 5 & 6 who participated in the CBC and PCW "Bugsy Malone” Musical last week. The children had a great time participating in and enjoying the Musical. It was great to see some ex-students take part in the main character roles. Thank you to Ruth Crispin who organised the children’s participation, and Gabrielle Berends, Sam Malin, Chelsea Roache, Catherine Le Hunt and Carmel Vozzo who supervised the children on the nights whilst they were not performing.

**School Concert**

This year our School Concert “Thank you for the music” will be held on **Thursday 1st September** at 7:00pm. However due to the overwhelming response we are also holding a Matinee performance at 11:00am on this day. If you have already purchased tickets and wish to change them to the Matinee session you may easily do so. Please come into the office and swap them with Erica. Please note that the evening session is “sold out”. Tickets are now only available for the Matinee session.

**Double Parking on Westbury Street**

Some parents are continuing to adopt the unsafe habit of dropping their children at the school in Westbury Street whilst they are double parked. This is not only illegal, but is unsafe for your children. Please refrain from double parking and use safe practices at the front of the school.

**Lunch Orders**

You can now register ‘online’ to purchase lunch orders. The simple way to register is to go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and click register. You will need to add **St Mary’s Primary School St Kilda East** to your registration details. Please note that we will only be using this service flexischools for lunch orders. Whilst the web site has other facilities connected to payments to schools we will not be using them. Starting this week you may purchase lunch orders online or by the normal bag orders through the office. For the remainder of Term 3, lunch orders will continue for Mondays only. However in Term 4 we will introduce Thursday as another day to purchase lunches. Also during the middle of Term 4 we will be cancelling the paper bag style of lunch orders and from then on lunch orders will only be available to be purchased online.

**Child Safety Policy**

Seven new Victorian Child safe standards came into effect on 1st January 2016 and apply to all organisations involved in child-related work in Victoria, such as schools, churches, kindergartens, children’s services, out of home care services, youth services and local councils. As a result of these standards the school at the moment is developing a comprehensive Child Safety Policy. During the development of this policy, the school proposes to:

- Demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school’s adherence to its child safety policy or statement of commitment;
- Support, encourage and enable school staff, parents and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters;
- Support or assist children who disclose child abuse or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.

**Points to note**

- The Child Safety Policy frames the commitments, policies, strategies and procedures of the school to ensure the protection of children from harm and abuse.
- We will undertake meaningful consultation with staff and others in developing the Child Safety Policy.
- The Child Safety Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.
- Once finalised the Child Safety Policy will be made available on an ongoing basis.

**School Improvement Framework (School Review)**

In this newsletter I will conclude the focus on the first section of the School Review Report – Education In Faith. This section highlights how Education in Faith connects to the School’s Vision.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

Gerard Lewis
Principal

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**School Review Report**

**Education in Faith**

Are the school’s practices reflective of the school’s vision?

St. Mary's School is a welcoming faith community...
From observation and discussions with members of the school community it is clear that the school’s practices in the **Education in Faith** sphere indicate a school that is a community of faith. The whole school commitment and priority placed on the development and implementation of the Faith-based Inquiry approaches evidence that Catholic faith and identity are central to the life of the school. Parents, students and staff in focus group frequently used the words welcoming, inclusive and respectful to describe the spirit of the school. This is further supported by the reviewer’s own experience and by the Enhancing Catholic School Identity report which indicates that there is an openness and hospitality towards a diversity of cultures and religions (p.42). The reviewer believes the school’s practices clearly reflect the school’s vision.

**What can the school do in the future to continue to improve?**

In the school’s self-reflection report a number of insightful suggestions, intentions and strategies have been identified to further improve the Education in Faith provided at St. Mary’s School. These have been developed after deep reflection and will assist the school to meet the goals and intended outcomes in the next School Improvement Plan. The reviewer offers the following suggestions to complement the school’s recommendations for improvement.

A comprehensive process has led to the development of a new vision for St. Mary's School. The principal and staff are urged to ensure that it is known, shared and valued by the entire school community and that it underpins all activities and policies of the school.

Further development of the Faith-based Inquiry approach is strongly endorsed. Closely linked to this is the intention to strengthen the school’s focus on social justice. The school is encouraged to ensure that students understand these activities as deeply based in Scripture and Catholic social teachings and are not simply fundraising activities.

To support teachers in their role as religious educators it will be important to provide ongoing personal faith and spiritual development to assist staff to explore and develop their own spirituality and to develop confidence in the depth of their knowledge and understanding of Scripture, Catholic faith and tradition. The ECSI report stresses the importance of continuing to form the leadership and teaching staff in matters of religion and Catholic identity – staff formation is vital to the future of Catholic school identity. (p.49)

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**SCHOOL CONCERT**

**Thursday 1st September**

7pm

Matinee Session – 11am

**SCHOOL FEES**

A friendly reminder if you currently have outstanding school fees please finalise soon as possible. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact Erica in the office.

**RETURNING IN 2017**

Just a reminder, if you haven't returned your slip advising the school if your child is returning in 2017, please return as soon as possible.

**NEW PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

A reminder for parents to fill out the new playground survey as soon as possible. Thank you to all the parents who have completed the survey and shared their thoughts and ideas. The survey can be found at [https://goo.gl/forms/Px89bzuvRglDf6YS2](https://goo.gl/forms/Px89bzuvRglDf6YS2) A working party group will also be formed with teachers, students and parents participating. If you are able to be part of our working group and are interested then please send an email to bfahey@smstkildaeast.catholic.edu.au (interested parents will need to be available during school hours to meet). Exciting times ahead.  

*Ben Fahey – Deputy Principal*
Parent & Friends Committee Update

P & F Mission Statement

Encouraging and strengthening the school community and coordinating social and fund raising events for additional educational resources for our children.

Upcoming Events - Term 3

- Father’s Day Breakfast – Tuesday 6th September, 7.30am (before school)

Father’s Day Breakfast

We hope our school dads will be able to join their children for the annual Father’s Day Breakfast, which will be held on Tuesday 6th September from 7:30am. Information was sent home two weeks ago. Tickets for a raffle which will be drawn on the day (there are up to five prizes to be won). The St Mary’s teachers have kindly agreed to open the classrooms from 8:15am for fathers attending the breakfast to come and see their children's work and learning space.

Bakers Delight in Balaclava

If you shop at Bakers Delight in Balaclava don’t forget to let the staff know that you are from St Mary’s Primary School. Our fundraising partnership provides for 5% of what you spend to be donated to the P & F fundraising goal for 2016.

P & F Committee Fundraising Report

This year, the P & F have raised just over $18,000! Mainly due to the success of Trivia night we have raised around $4,000 more so far this year than after the same events last year. At the end of last year it was agreed by the P & F that the fundraising aim would be to upgrade the existing school play equipment. Project plans will be reviewed with the school management in the coming period and information will be made available to the school community. With a few P & F events left for the year, let’s see how high we can go

Questions? Please contact the P&F Management Committee, Ben Merlin and Anoushka Bondar at: smp.parentsandfriends@gmail.com

Extend OSHC at St Mary’s - Primary School

SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAM BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!

Book by the deadline to take advantage of lower rates! VIC booking deadline: Friday 2 Sept

We have heaps of fun activities planned these school holidays and can’t wait for you to attend! Have fun with science experiments, participate in a bunch of craft activities with access to a plethora of art media, and get active with a variety of sports and team games. Join in on all this and more at Extend’s Spring 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