Dear Parents,

Earlier in the year we revised, reformulated and began working to further embed our school rules and behaviour management procedures to enable everyone, students, staff & parents, to be aware of & familiar with the expectations in this area.

To further our work in Behaviour Management, the staff has recently worked with Marg Armstrong. Marg is a trained and experienced primary teacher who now runs her own business, Just Practices. (www.justpractices.com.au)

She provides resources and professional development opportunities for primary schools around Restorative Practices.

What is ‘Restorative Practices’?

When relationships are adversely affected by someone’s behaviour, they need to be repaired so that harmony is restored. Restorative Practices concentrate on repairing the harm caused and on restoring the relationship rather than focussing on the incident that caused the harm.

In this way incidents of misbehaviour provide a learning opportunity for all involved rather than punishments just being handed out. Social responsibility is fostered and the perspectives of others are taken into account when dealing with misbehaviour.

To lay the foundations for being a restorative school, schools need to focus on a culture that embraces safe, collaborative relationships – shared philosophies, values, expectations, attitudes & beliefs that knit our community together.

We believe we do this well but we can always do better. So to enhance our work in continually building strong relationships with our students, Marg spoke to us about using CIRCLES!

The CIRCLE format is an ancient form of communication for spiritual, political and communal life and is found throughout world traditions. The CIRCLE is used throughout the world when a group of people want to talk about an issue in a way that allows everyone to participate and contribute. It is a symbol of unity and cooperation.

In a CIRCLE, no one feels isolated or left out. In a CIRCLE, everyone can see each other so it’s easier to listen and hear. ‘Going around the CIRCLE’ provides everyone with the chance to speak and ensures that everyone is heard. Placing everyone in a circle sets a tone of equal participation – everyone can be a teacher and everyone can be a learner.

Classroom CIRCLES are a great way to allow students to develop & enhance life skills that are so important to all of us. They take many forms and result in many positive outcomes (see over). Class groups have been trying a variety of activities with great success. We hope you also see the benefits at home.

Stay Healthy, Margaret Masseni Student Wellbeing Leader
**AUSSIE OF THE MONTH**

For consistently demonstrating great behaviour and the values we promote at St Mary’s

**JUNE 2013**

Layland Pappas for his extremely positive attitude to everything he tackles in the classroom as well as his effort to always be considerate of others

Alessia Abate for always working hard and helping others

Sarah Torre for always thinking of others

**JULY 2013**

Lucas Mickovski for always thinking of others

Olivia De Simone for making great academic gains & for always striving to do her best

Jayden Keran for his admirable attitude to school and his unassuming & thoughtful manner towards others

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**CIRCLES**

Class groups are incorporating more CIRCLES into their learning time. The kids are loving them. Just ask them!

**DISCUSSION / DIALOGUE:**

Current events, moral dilemmas

Curriculum topics

**EVALUATION OR REFLECTION:**

What do we know?

What did we learn?

**CLASS PROBLEM SOLVING:**

How do we feel? Who has been affected?

How can we solve the problem so it doesn’t happen again?

**COMMUNITY:**

Teach pro-social skills

Build relationships

Make connections & cement friendships

**CELEBRATION:**

Birthdays & special events

**SOCIAL SKILLS:**

Learning & practising skills such as listening, kindness, respect, forgiveness, taking turns, cooperation

**RESTORATIVE:**

What happened?

Who was affected?

What can we do to make it better?

**REVIEWING CURRICULUM:**

How do we feel about…..?

Who needs support or a buddy to help them?

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**TIPS FOR KEEPING CALM & RELAXING**

by Mikey, Riley, Noah, Joshua & Daniel

Blow Bubbles – a great way to chill out when you are feeling anxious, angry or upset.

- Focus on the colours in the bubbles.
- Don’t blow too hard or the bubbles won’t work – thus the need to be calm
- Share the bubble mix with a friend – taking turns and sharing with others can help us to feel more positive

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**ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE – WELLBEING: Resources for Parents**

**NEW MICHAEL GROSE ARTICLES…**

*Father time is valuable time* (attached)

*Don’t be daft about Minecraft:* Parenting ideas writer Jason Fox explains the attractions & the benefits of Minecraft – the latest trend to hit boyworld.

*Making birthday parties special:* Alternatives to the BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY PHENOMENON

*Is your child ready to attend a funeral?* : Insightful article explaining how children experience death of loved ones and how parents can help them face loss.

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**BANANA BREAD**

Sift together:

1 ¾ cups SR Flour, ¼ cup plain flour & 1 tspn cinnamon

Mix together:

2/3 cup brown sugar, ½ cup milk, 2 lightly beaten eggs, 50g melted butter & 2 mashed bananas (use very ripe bananas as they are easier to mash and taste sweeter)

Mix the ‘wet’ ingredients into the ‘dry’ ingredients and stir well.

Pour into a loaf tin and bake at 160 degrees for 45 minutes.

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**THANKS TO THE PILDITCH FAMILY FOR ONE OF THEIR FAMILY FAVE RECIPES...GIVE IT A TRY...IT SOUNDS YUMMMMY!!!**