Dear Parents
What a SPECTACULAR evening we had on Tuesday night. It was amazing to see the church packed to the rafters and to see all the children having such a fantastic time performing. From Prep to Year 6 the smiles were contagious. Then to walk out onto the school grounds and see so many of our school and parish community having such a great time. It was very rewarding that so many of our school families and friends were able to remain after the children’s performance and visit the Art Show. I’m sure everyone was impressed with the quality and variety of the Art work that was on display in the TRI Centre.
Such a successful night as this doesn’t just happen without a lot of effort from a lot of people. A very, very sincere THANK YOU to the following people who made a significant contribution to this wonderful evening:

- Mrs Morag Zun for her creation and organisation of the children’s concert.
- Mrs Anthea Zimmerman for her Art Show organisation and presentation.
- All of the Staff of St. Mary’s School.
- Garry Hills and the Parents & Friends that worked in the canteen.
- to the many parents that assisted in the packing up of the chairs and tables at the end of the night.

This has traditionally been a very successful evening, and thanks to YOU I believe it was again a fantastic evening. THANK YOU and WELL DONE To All Involved.

YOUR MONEY BEING SPENT:
We have recently purchased and had installed 30 new computers. Most of these computers went into our Prep and Year 1/2 classrooms. All computers in the school are now capable of managing the newest software programs. We also purchased 15 new laptops for use with our Interactive Whiteboards as well as upgrading our cabling from our main building to building two with optic fibre which should improve the speed and reliability of the computers.

The Parents and Friends passed on $12,000 to the school in September which had been raised from functions throughout the year and this assisted in the purchase of the above computers that came in total to $56,000.
Fundraising is certainly a role of the Parents and Friends but it is in conjunction with the social aspect of building on the wonderful sense of community we have here at St. Mary’s.

Thank you to parents that have supported the Parents and Friends functions and please continue to do so either by joining the Committee and/or supporting the functions organised, be they, social/community building or fundraising.
We have a large number of monitors that are looking for a new home. Please contact the school office before next Wednesday if you are interested.

FAREWELL:
To our current Year 1/2 teacher Mrs Emily Roberts who has secured a new teaching position at Our Lady of Assumption, Cheltenham. We sincerely thank Emily for her contribution to our school over the last four years and wish her every success at her new school.
Also farewell to our current Year 3/4 teacher Miss Nikki Fiesley who has secured a new teaching position at St. Robert’s Newtown, Geelong. We sincerely thank Nikki for her contribution to our school throughout this year and wish her every success at her new school.

WELCOME:
It is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce and welcome our two new teachers for 2014. Miss Britt Densmore and Miss Megan Loft. Both teachers are enthusiastic about joining our wonderful staff at St. Mary’s.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FINISH TIME – 3.20PM
Parents/Carers please note that on the last day of school Thursday 19th December the children will FINISH AT 3.20PM.
CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to the following past students for their excellent achievements in Year 7 this year at St. Paul’s College.
Lachlan Cassar received an award for “Excellence” in Personal Best Achievement for Language.
Also an ‘Excellence’ award in School Spirit and Service and the ‘David Templeton’ 2013 Scholarship.

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:

Sunday 15th December is the Third Week of Advent
We praise and bless you God of light and glory,
For giving us Jesus your Son to fill our hearts
with the light of your love.
Help us to prepare for the fullness of his light
in our world. We make this prayer in the name of
Jesus. Amen

COME ALONG AND SHARE WITH
THE CHILDREN IN THE FINAL
ADVENT PRAYER CELEBRATION NEXT
❖ Mon 16th December: 11.30 am in the church.
3/4S, 1/2K, Prep H & Prep S

A busy week of thanksgiving ahead with the
❖ Year 6 Graduation Mass on Tuesday,
17th December at 6.00 pm
❖ End of Year Mass on Wednesday,
18th December at 9:15 am
Come along and be a part of this final celebration
as we give thanks for all the wonderful gifts
God has shared with us on our 2013
journey at St. Mary’s.

‘Have courage. Go forward. Make noise.’
Pope Francis 1

Please pray for:
All members of our community who are sick or in need
of our prayerful support.

Just a reminder that any donations for the Salvo’s
Christmas Appeal ends on Wednesday 18th December.
Many blessings and thanks to everyone who made
donations at the P.E./R.E. office or Year 5/6C room 11.

Olive Chodowski
Religious Education Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

DECEMBER
Monday 16th
School Assembly Staff – 2.30 pm

Tuesday 17th
2014 Year 1 – 6 Orientation 11.30 am – 1.30 pm
Graduation Mass – 6.00 pm

Wednesday 18th
End of Year Mass – 9.15 am

Thursday 19th
End of School Year for Children - 3.20 pm finish

Friday 20th
End of School Year for Staff

VICTORIAN PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE
This year more than 231,000 students participated in the Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge. We had 90 students at St. Mary’s take part.
Each student will receive a certificate from the Premier of Victoria, The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP as well as a bookmark acknowledging their effort in meeting this challenge.
A list of all students who meet this challenge is on our website.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to:
Who received the PRC Badge for their commitment to reading and promoting reading in our school.
SENIOR: Grace Bosnar and Xander Ianna
MIDDLE: Maria Nguyen
JUNIOR: Joshua Myers, Hannah Ealem and Layland Pappas

PARENT HOME HELPERS
Thank you to the mums and dads who have helped cover books, colour in activities, cut around charts and shapes and so much more at home for us this year.
Your help has been greatly appreciated

Gwenda Burnett
Literacy Leader.

CHAIR AND TABLE CLEANERS – THANK YOU
I would like to offer a HUGE thank you to the many past students who came along on Monday to assist Mrs Masseni and myself to clean over 300 chairs and 180 tables. The weather was wet but we managed to clean them all. A very special thank you to Mrs Liz Whitehouse from OSC who also helped us in this mammoth cleaning task. Gwenda Burnett.
ART SPECTACULAR
Thank you to everyone for making the Art Spectacular such a special night on Tuesday. Once again, the students of St. Marys produced so many fantastic pieces of artwork and they should be VERY proud of themselves. Thank you to the staff, students, ex-students and friends of St. Marys that helped to set up the show.

Unfortunately, several pieces of ‘Google’ art were omitted on the night. These were the ones that were entered into the official competition and were chosen for a number of reasons, including creativity and hard work! These will hang in the office area so that everyone has a chance to see them. The Spectacular artwork will remain up until next week for anyone that has not had a chance to see it. All artwork will be sent home next week.

Lastly, I would like to mention Qenos who once again have kindly made a donation to the school. This year we used this money to build trolleys to be used for the Altona festival.

Anthea Zimmerman
Art Teacher

NORMIE THE GNOME
Normie the Gnome is awarded to the House Team who keeps their part of the yard the cleanest. This week’s winner is:

YELLOW TEAM

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UNIFORM SHOP WILL NOT BE OPEN ON THE LAST WEEK OF TERM
We would like to extend our gratitude to Penny Ealem and Linda Wakfer for doing such a wonderful job in looking after our uniform shop throughout the year and thank you for the time which is generously donated every week.

MUSIC AT ST. MARY’S ARTS SPECTACULAR
A big thank you to all the children for their wonderful performance at the Christmas Concert. Thank you to the Choir who narrated, acted and were the backup vocals for the whole performance. Well done!

CHOIR – CHANGE OF TIME!
The School Choir has been asked to sing Christmas Carols at Altona North Bunnings store and Altona Gate shopping centre on Wednesday 18th December. We are performing at 12 noon at Bunnings and 12:45 pm at Altona Gate food court. We encourage as many parents and family members as possible to come along to give them support.

Morag Zun
Performing Arts Teacher

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SPORTS CAMPS
WHEN: 13th - 17th January or 20th – 24th January
WHERE: VU Fitness and Aquatic Centre
PROGRAMS: Basketball, Cricket, Multi Sport, Netball, Soccer and Tennis
AGES: 6 – 15
MORE INFORMATION: www.staff.vu.edu.au/sportscamps or PHONE: (03) 9919 4370

WALK / RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY
Thanks to everyone for your commitment to ACTIVE TRANSPORT this year.
As a result of our wonderful work we have been awarded $2000 by the Bicycle Network for improvements to our bike parking area. We will be looking for ideas early next year and would love your input. So get your thinking caps on! Congratulations to 5/6G who were the Most Active Grade this time.
FEELING GREAT – HEALTH AND WELLBEING
NEWS...went home this week.
If you missed your copy go on to the school website NEWS: Health & Wellbeing Newsletter. More interesting articles in WELLBEING: Resources for Parents.

Margaret Masseni
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

BOXFIT - GET FIT AFTER DROP OFF AND MEET SOME OTHER COOL MUMS
Every Tuesday at 9.15 am at St. Mary's Oval (behind the playground)
Fun mix of cardio, strength, core,
Term One – starts 11th February
Children welcome (under your care)
Suitable for any fitness level
Contact Leanne (Ronan & Lachlans mum)
0412 482 358
www.seasidefitness.com.au

HOBSONS BAY IN 2014
Come and enjoy a free Dogs' Breakfast!
When: Saturday 4th January from 8.30 – 10.30 am
Where: P.A. Burns Reserve, Altona Other activities include: Half price micro chipping and snake awareness program by Reptile Education Victoria and lots more.
The Environment Resource Centre at the Altona Library, corner of Queen and Sargood Streets, Altona on Thursday 16th January and Friday 17th January. Visit the wildlife display open from 10 am – 3.00 pm
For more information contact Conservation Ranger on 9932 1000, ranger@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au /www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Summer Kidz programs in Hobsons Bay
The Aquatic and Recreation Victoria (ARV) will run a series of Summer Kidz programs in Hobsons Bay. They are subsidised learn to swim and water safety programs open to all residents. They will be run at three locations over the first three weeks of January: Pool based program at Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre: Beach programs at both Altona and Williamstown beaches.
The cost for a week of 5 sessions in the pool or at the beach is $25.00 per participant. The pool based program at Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre there is an additional cost of $3.50 per day for each participant to cover their pool entry (bringing the total pool entry cost for 5 days to $17.50).
For further details and to enrol visit the VicSwim web page (www.vicswim.com.au) or call Aquatics and Recreation Victoria on (03) 9271 3800.

ALTONA CITY SOCCER CLUB
Interested in playing outdoor soccer in 2014? Altona City Soccer club, on Millers Rd opposite Cherry Lake, caters for boys, girls, women and men of all age groups with an even greater focus in 2014 on adopting the nationally recognised curriculum and coaching program. No need to register or pay up front. Simply come and try. It all recommences in January / February 2014, Under 5s to 7s in March. Huge pre-season tournament planned as well as new strips, bag, tracksuit and spray jacket (all to keep), with no increase in fees. We are always also looking for coaches that believe in the curriculum, development and fun. Keep an eye out on our website for more information www.altonacitysoccerclub.com.au Call 9398 3974 or join us on Facebook. For more information Robert Palmaricciotti 0408 401 928.

Learn music here at school.
Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, here at St. Mary's Primary School.
Small group classes or one-on-one lessons give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.
Tuition costs from $15.40 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2014.
Interested parents should call Marika during office hours on 9818 2333.

Creative Music for Schools
www.creativemusic.com.au