Dear Parents

It seems unbelievable that we have arrived at the last week of the school year and it is certainly a very busy week.

Monday: 11.30 am. Our final Advent Paraliturgy 2.30 pm. Final School Assembly

Tuesday: 11.30 – 1.30 pm. Children go into their 2015 class groupings 6.00 pm. Year 6 Graduation Mass, Dinner and Disco

Thursday: 9.15 am. End of School Year Mass - All parents are welcome to attend. 3.20 pm. Children are dismissed.

Friday: Last Day for Staff

WELCOME:
We warmly welcome Ms Angela Hamilton to St. Mary’s Staff as our new Performing Arts teacher in 2015. Ms Hamilton is an experienced teacher who is currently working as the Performing Arts teacher at Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Wyndham Vale.

FAREWELL:
To our Library Technician Ms Julie Brazatis who has secured a full time position in the library at Emmanuel College, St. Paul’s Campus. We sincerely thank Julie for her contribution to our school over the last two years and wish her every success at her new school.

David Kelly.
Principal.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS:
Congratulations to the following children who received Principals Awards on Monday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP H</td>
<td>Isabella Armeri and Amber Steinhardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP S</td>
<td>Dhriti Amin and Christian Galea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>Hannah Ealem and Daniel Ameri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2K</td>
<td>Bridie O’Connor and Lachlan Vanderligt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2D</td>
<td>Kiani Howell and Hahta Srbinovski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Olivia DeSimone and Zach Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4S</td>
<td>Thomas Kruger and Ronan Vandeligt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4L</td>
<td>Michelle Nassim and Amelie Warby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Mikey Ross and William Fenech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6V</td>
<td>Ryan Said and Zane Azzopardi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6G</td>
<td>Isabelle DeSimone and Lana Fenech</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONGRATULATIONS
To the Amin family (Dhriti PS) who have recently become Australian Citizens.

ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm Grace Bosnar and Alannah Brista
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9.00 am Rowan Cucanic and Faith Kissassii

ADVENT PREPARATION - FOR CHRISTMAS 2014
Sun 14 Dec 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight Logan Reserve, Queen St Altona
Tue 16 Dec 6.00pm St. Mary’s School Graduation Mass

RECONCILIATION
Wed 17 Dec 4-5pm Maltese & English Confessions 1<sup>st</sup> Rite
Fri 19 Dec 7.00pm Reconciliation 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite
Sat 20 Dec 6.00 to 6.15pm 1<sup>st</sup> Rite (Individual Confessions)

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE
Wed 24 Dec 6.30 pm Carols/Nativity Play 7.00 pm Family Mass 11.30 pm Carols
Thurs 25 Dec 12.00 am Midnight Mass 10.00 am Christmas Day Mass

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:

TUCKSHOP NEWS
The Tuckshop NEEDS YOUR HELP if you are able to help one day every four weeks preferably Friday afternoon 12.30 – 2.00 pm please leave your details with the School Office.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful volunteers who have helped in 2014 and those volunteers who are sadly not able to help anymore because their children have left the school.
EDUCATION IN FAITH

ADVENT LITURGIES
Our final school Advent Liturgy is on:

**Monday 15th December - 11.30 am**
- Prep H, Prep S, 1/2D, 3/4S.

ADVENT 2014
In this season of Advent we are called to wait expectantly for the coming of Jesus Christ.

May Advent be a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus.
May Advent be a time of sharing with those in need.
May Advent be a time of re-thinking our place in the creation story.
May Advent be a time of growing to awareness in our relationship with each other.
May Advent be a time when we love others as God loves us. Amen.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL ST MARY’S STAFF AND FAMILIES WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR CLASSROOM HAMPERS. AN AMZING COLLECTION! THESE WERE COLLECTED TODAY AND WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON. THANK YOU.

Olive Chodowski - REL
“We must take things quietly.”
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop-1875

HOBSONS BAY LIBRARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES.

- **Summer Reading Club** – It is a fun program that helps children enjoy reading over summer. Books read over summer are recorded on a Reading Log and prizes given. There will be a PARTY to celebrate at the end and to meet other readers. A form can be collected from the School Office or go to http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au REMEMBER 10 minutes READING even over summer can make a BIG difference to your child’s reading skills.

- **ATTENTION ALL WRITERS**
  - Young writers are invited to enter their short story and / or poem into the competition. Perhaps you could enter something you have written this year at school. There are LOTS of prizes for ALL year levels. Let me know if you enter and how you go!....YOU have to be in it to WIN. Submit your entry at any Hobsons Bay Library branch, collect a form from the School Office or go to http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

- Visit the library website for a HUGE list of GREAT things to do over January.

THANK YOU to PARENT HOME HELPERS
To the parents who have throughout the year by willingly doing many tasks to help the school at home by: covering books, cutting out activities, colouring and making games etc. your help has been invaluable and with EVERYONE helping it has made the tasks much easier. Hoping you can offer your help again next year.

CHAIR & TABLE CLEANING
A HUGE thank you to the 35 past pupils and Liz Whitehouse who came and helped us wash over 150 tables and 300 chairs on Thursday. It was a mammoth task but with all of your help we did it. MANY thanks to everyone!

Gwenda Burnett
Deputy Principal / Literacy Leader.

Parents and Friends News

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MORNING TEA
The Parents and Friends Committee need your help in welcoming our new parents to our lovely school in 2015. If you are able to help please complete the form at the end of this newsletter or a copy can be download from our school website “NEWS” NOTES & FORMS” and return it to the School Office as soon possible. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their form.
DOING IT RIGHT - Week 9 Term 4

1/2K: Jordan
1/2D: Eliza, Nikita
3/4L: Alessia,
3/4S: Aiden, Ava, Evelyn

For: being honest in games, giving friendly ‘hellos’, returning notes promptly, listening well and being ready to learn, helping people and loads of other great things!

TAE KWON DO CHAMPION

Congratulations to Justin Nguyen (3/4S) who competed in the National Tae Kwon Do Championships in Adelaide last weekend. Justin came third and was presented with a bronze medal for his great efforts and hard work. Well done Justin!

NEW PARENTING IDEAS MAGAZINE AND ARTICLES

Michael Grose’s new articles “Show some kindness and gratitude this festive season” and “Making the most of these school holidays” are available on the school website and via facebook.

Also available is a link to a magazine with a wealth of information and great ideas.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Thanks to everyone who participated in our final Walk / Ride to School Day for 2014. We had just 67 children coming to school in an active way – thanks for making the effort.

A special thanks to Cheri, Peter, Tania, Annette and Michelle who supervised our Walking School Buses this term. Lots of fun had by all who joined our buses.

SANITARIUM WEE-T BIX KIDS TRYATHLON

A message from Brett Lee

We’re delighted to be running the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon in this, its 17th year. We’re proud of the fact that it’s the biggest event series of its kind in the world and even more so that it helps our own kids stay active and healthy.

The greatest challenges facing our kids today are obesity and mental health issues. Every year the research we do with parents confirms that around 91% of all kids’ self-esteem is improved as a result of participating in a Kids TRY event.

Kids TRYathlon is coming to Melbourne on the 8th of March 2015! The Kids tell me it’s one of the best days they’ve ever had so if you haven’t given it a TRY yet, you really should.

My fellow TRY Hero ambassadors and I particularly enjoy giving every child a gold medal and seeing the big smiles on their faces.

For more information go to http://try.weetbix.com.au/

Margaret Masseni (Wellbeing and PE / Sport Leader)

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE AT ST. MARYS

Camp Australia

WE MAKE KIDS SMILE!

Phone: 1300 105 343 / (03) 9398 4065

www.campaustralia.com.au

1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

info@campaustralia.com.au

Fax: (03) 8610 2044

For Out of School Hours Care at St. Marys (CAMP AUSTRALIA) bookings or cancellations please contact them direct.

TAKE BACK CHERRY LAKE

Let’s state it loud and clear that this beautiful spot is a Safe Place for all. Join your community and unite in a walk around Cherry Lake.

Free BBQ and music from 6.00 pm. Walk or run around that lake for those who wish at 6.30 pm. Bring your family and friends.

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Phone: (03) 9932 1000

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

NETBALL VICTORIA

Netball Victoria is pleased to announce a five year tenancy agreement at the Victoria University Community Stadium, launching Western Netball.

Netball Victoria will commence a Tuesday night competition from February 3, 2015. The following grades will be available:

•11/Under
•13/Under
•15/Under
•Open – competitive, social and mixed*

If you are interested in entering the team, contact Netball Vic or Vic Uni.
First Day of School Morning Tea
9.00 – 10.00am
In The School Hall

The Parents & Friends would like to host a morning tea on behalf of St Mary’s School Community to welcome all the new and existing parents of 2015.

So, come along and join us in the hall after drop off on the first day of school and catch up with old friends & meet some new people.

We really need your support to help make this event a success. We’ll need helpers to set up and then pack up the hall, and we’ll need lots of scrumptious items to serve. So, if you enjoy baking we’d greatly appreciate a cake, slice, biscuits or scones. If you could please bring them cut up and ready to serve and drop them off at the school hall.

If you are able assist with any of the following please complete this form and return it as soon as possible.

If you have any queries please contact Patrice Cassar: jpc.pec@bigpond.com

I AM ABLE TO HELP WITH THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MORNING TEA

☐ I can help set up in the hall … 8.20 – 8.45 am (all or part of that time)

☐ I can bake or purchase a plate of cakes, biscuits or slices and drop them off pre-cut to the hall by 8.45 am.

☐ I can help to pack up and clean up … 10.00 – 10.45 am

Helper’s Name...........................................................................................................

Child’s Name & Grade...............................................................................................

Contact No. ................................................................................................................

Email .........................................................................................................................