Dear Parents

It’s hard to believe that we have arrived at the end of the year. There still seems so many things that need to be done. Talking to a few parents everyone seems to feel the same way. Can I also remind you that you can access the newsletter from our website: www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

We have had a few very exciting days beginning with our Year 6 Graduation Mass, Dinner and Disco last Tuesday. What a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults our Year 6 students are. They are heading off to fifteen different Secondary Schools, so the message from St. Mary’s will be going far and wide. We sincerely thank them for their contribution and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary’s.

Today we had our End of Year Mass which the whole school attended, we farewelled our Year 6’s as well as Mrs Morag Zun who is retiring and Mrs Josie Kirby and Mrs Julie Brazatis who have taken up positions elsewhere.

- To the families who are leaving our school community: Thank you for your contribution over many years. St. Mary’s has benefited greatly from your involvement, interest and support.
- To all the parents: Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children’s education.
- To all the children: Thank you for your enthusiasm to learn, to improve, to have fun, to compete, to be friendly, to be welcoming.
- To the STAFF and I’m including: All Teachers and Teacher Aides, Mrs Valda Pedley and Mrs Jane Sammut from the School Office, Mrs Eva Coppola and Mrs Amy Xu from the Tuckshop and Mr Tony Grima our cleaner and maintenance person.
- Each year the demands on your time and what you are expected to cater for and offer in your roles seems to increase unreasonably however you continue to respond to these ever increasing demands with enthusiasm and expertise. Thank you and Congratulations.
- To all the parents that help around the school THANK YOU! For eg our Book Club organiser (Beryl Henry who even though she no longer has any children at St. Mary’s has continued to run the Book Club which benefits the families and the school enormously), and also to the many other ways parents who assist around the school; the Uniform Shop, Marylinda for her laminating, the book coverers, excursion helpers, sport helpers, etc. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU:
- To Mrs Gwenda Burnett for her support, expertise and amazing work ethic. I’m sure I don’t need to elaborate on Gwenda’s contribution to our school. St. Mary’s is very fortunate to have someone of Gwenda’s amazing talent and dedication.
- To our School Captains: Megan Whatman, Chante Mullins, Kyhle Aquilina and Xander Ianna for their co-operation and wonderful leadership throughout the year. You’ve set the bar high for the 2015 Captains but knowing who they are, I’m sure they’re up to the challenge.
- To all our other School Leaders: House Captains, Wellbeing and Social Justice Leaders thank you for your outstanding efforts throughout the year.
- To our Parents and Friends Committee who although small in number did an enormous amount throughout the year. A special thank you to Mr Garry Hills for his co-ordination and organisation of this great group of workers for our school. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.
To our School Education Board for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

To Fr Shabin for his support and I look forward to working closely with him next year.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Congratulations to the following Year 6 children who received awards at Tuesday night’s Graduation Mass:

- **Academic Excellence**: Brianna Mercuri
- **Academic Persistence**: Mia Micallef
- **Values Award**: Olivia Yacono
- **“The Arts” Award**: Chloe Smedley

**ST. MARY’S YEAR SIX MEMORY STICK**
Thank you and congratulations to the students who volunteered to create the Year Six Memory Stick for 2014. You have been a very talented group with great ideas and suggestions to make this the best it could be. Thank you to each member of the Memory Stick committee for their dedication and persistence in its creation: Brianna Mercuri, Verity Sattout, Danielle Stewart, Rowan Cucanic, Isabelle DeSimone, Mikey Ross, Ethan Fernando, Olivia LeGall, Chloe Smedley and Stella Clowes. Special Thanks to Mrs Nicole Singleton for all her assistance and to Mrs Gwenda Burnett for once again so expertly co-ordinating the whole process.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2015:**
- **Girl Captains**: Jessica Offen and Madison Cutajar
- **Boy Captains**: Dominic Azzopardi and Trent Micheli

**HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2015:**
- **Blue**: Jelena Huynh and Ryan Said
- **Green**: Destiny Mizzi and Ben Hussey
- **Red**: Zane Azzopardi and Ella Longaretti-Schreppel
- **Yellow**: Dibanchi Teshomi and Fikre Tsegay

**SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2015:**
- Marie H and Mairead F

**WELLBEING LEADERS for 2015:**
- Emily Kakoulis and Isabella Pisani

**NETBALL SCORES:**
This week we again had our traditional Year 6 Students and teachers game of netball. Lots of fun and a great game by both teams. Again the teachers were victorious.
Final scores 18-6.

**COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2015:**
The Staff will commence on Wednesday 28th January.

**ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS** commence at 8.50 am on Thursday 29th January. Children assemble with their bags on the netball court. We will have a short assembly. Year One – Six then move to their classrooms with their teachers. Once all other levels have moved out of the area our preps will then follow their teachers to their classrooms. The Parents and Friends on behalf of the school invite all parents to the hall for a cuppa and a chat and some scrumptious food.

Our Prep children WILL NOT attend school on the next four Wednesdays in February. They will be timetabled to attend for a half hour or so on some Wednesdays to complete some testing but parents will be notified of these times next year.

**IMPORTANT:**
Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute “Getting to Know You” interviews will be held between 3.20 – 5.30 pm on Monday 2nd February (the first Monday back next year).
The purpose of this meeting is to learn as much as we can about your child from you. It is NOT a progress report but rather a sharing of information meeting.
We ask ALL parents to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting we ask you to arrange with your child’s teacher another mutual date and time to meet in the near future.

If your child has the same teacher as this year and circumstances haven’t changed you do not have to make an appointment.

You can book interviews at times that suit your family best.
Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website.

**BOOKINGS OPEN – THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER 2014 AND CLOSE SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2015 AT 3.00 PM.**

**THE SCHOOL EVENT CODE IS: QR7L6**

I would like to wish all our families a very happy and holy Christmas and a peace filled New Year.
I look forward to seeing you all again in 2015, after a fun-filled, enjoyable, restful and well-deserved holiday.

David Kelly.
Principal.

**ALTAR SERVICE ROSTER**
- **Saturday 20th December at 6.30 pm**
  Justin Nguyen and Grace Bosnar
- **Sunday 21st December at 9.00 am**
  Alessia Abate, Brianna Mercuri and Megan Whatman

**Christmas Mass – Volunteers Needed**
- **Saturday 27th December at 6.30 pm**
  Jade Azzopardi and Maddison Azzopardi
- **Sunday 28th December at 9.00 am**
  Rowan Cucanic and Faith Kissassi
- **Saturday 3rd January at 6.30 pm**
  Maria Nguyen, Grace Bosnar and Alannah Briffa
- **Sunday 4th January at 9.00 am**
  Alessia Abatye, Brianna Mercuri and Megan Whatman

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2015**

**JANUARY**
- **Wednesday 28th** First Day Back for Staff
- **Thursday 29th** First Day Back for Students
EDUCATION IN FAITH

“The Blessings of Peace
The Beauty of Hope
The Spirit of Love
The Comfort of Faith

May these be your gifts this Christmas Season.”

A GREAT ADVENT MESSAGE

GOD BYE AND THANK YOU
As I am about to retire, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff, parents and children of St. Mary’s for all your support during my time here and for your best wishes for my retirement. It has been a privilege to teach your children.

In particular, I would like to thank David and Gwenda for their leadership, support and encouragement.

To my fellow Specialists, Marg and Anthea, a big thank you for their invaluable support and friendship.

To the children, thank you for your energy and enthusiasm and I hope you joyfully continue on your path of learning.

I wish everyone a wonder-filled Christmas and every blessing in 2015.

Morag Zun
Music Specialist

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
The Uniform Shop has now closed for the year. It will re-open on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January, 2015 at 3.00 pm. Please note the Uniform Shop accepts payment by either cash or cheque. It would be very much appreciated if correct cash amount could be brought on the day of purchase. Thank you.

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.

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE
Twilight Open Evening – Year 7, 2016
Tuesday 17th February
3.00 - 7.00 pm
Parent Information Evening
7.00 – 7.45 pm
Applications must Close 27th February, 2015
Join a student leader for a College tour
Meet Staff and hear our Principal
133 Maidstone Street, Altona
Phone: 8398 2000
www.msj.vic.edu.au
Education Today. Shaping Tomorrow.