



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ALTONA NEWSLETTER 2016



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Dear Parents,

No.39 16th December, 2016

Three nights ago we had a wonderful Graduation Mass and celebration afterwards. What a fantastic evening it was and what a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults these Year 6's are. We sincerely thank them for their contribution to St. Mary's and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary's.

I would like to especially thank Olive, Erin, Megan, Marg M, Angela, Joyce, Nancy and Nicole for all the planning and organisation that went into the mass, speeches, special year 6 choir, and the celebration afterwards as well as the mass today with our school choir and all the awards and certificates that have been presented. It is an enormous amount of work and I would also like to congratulate and thank other staff that have assisted in one way or another.

There are a large number of people that make St. Mary's School such an outstanding school to be part of that I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contributions and sincerely THANK them.

To all the parents: Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children's education. Especially those parents that have their youngest child leaving St. Mary's and therefore have been involved for 7 years or in some cases a lot longer.

To all the parents that help around the school: For eg our Book Club organiser (Beryl Henry who, even though she no longer has any children at St. Mary's, continues to run the Book Club which benefits the families and the school enormously). Also to the many other ways parents assist around the school; the Uniform Shop, the book coverers, classroom helpers, laminators, excursion helpers, sport helpers, etc. THANKYOU!

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 & I'm including: All Teachers & Learning Support Officers, Valda & Kathleen from the Office, Eva & Amy from the Canteen & Tony our cleaner & 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. Thankyou & Congratulations.

To Margaret Masseni: What an outstanding job she has done in her first year of the joint role of Deputy Principal / Wellbeing Leader even including a stint as Acting Principal. Luckily Marg has agreed to continue in the role so we are very lucky at St. Mary's to have someone with her talent, patience, calmness, organisational ability and sense of fairness and fun. THANKS MARG!

To our School Captains; Alannah Briffa, Michelle Nassim, Thomas Kruger and Justin Nguyen for their co-operation and wonderful leadership throughout the year and especially over the last couple of weeks as they have had to prepare for their involvement in our end of year celebrations: Graduation, Final Assembly and End of Year Mass. Well

done to you all and Thank you. You've set the bar high for the 2017 Captains but knowing who they are I'm sure they're up to the challenge.

To all our other School Leaders: House Captains, Wellbeing & Social Justice Leaders thank you for your outstanding efforts throughout the year.

To Fr. Shabin for his support and I look forward to working even more closely with him in 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS:

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

Academic Excellence: Tanvi Arora

Academic Persistence: Kate Ealem

Values Award: James Curran

"The Arts" Award: Hannah Jesaulenko

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2017:

The staff will commence on Monday 30th January. **ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS** commence at **8.50 am on Tuesday 31st 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, 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.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2017

Girl Captains for 2017 are: Jazmin Dowd & Millie Pilditch

Boy Captains for 2017 are: Liam Denys & Luke Vella

Our House Captains for 2017 are:

Blue: Madeline Mickovski & Taj Tanti

Green: Gabrielle Montebello & Kane Sortino

Yellow: Elizabeth Teshomi & Liam Curran

Red: Ava Robertson & Noah Defina

Our Wellbeing Leaders are: Ally Smedley & Tegan Sortino

Our Social Justice Leaders are: Sara Adani & Kyle Escobar

Our Choir Leader is: Isla McAvoy

STAFF CHANGES FOR 2017:

Mrs Ruth Stanley is leaving to take up a fulltime teaching placement at Sacred Heart Newport. We thank Ruth for her contribution and wish her well.

We welcome Ms Jane Kirkwood to our staff. Jane will be teaching Year 5/6K.

Ms Nancy Scuderi will be teaching Year 1/2N.

Mrs Carol Hicks will be teaching Year 3/4HK.

Ms Britt Densmore will be teaching Prep D.

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 6th February.

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 and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website.

BOOKINGS OPEN – Wednesday 18th January 2017 and close Sunday 5th February 2017.

CareMonkey Update: Hopefully this week you have received an email to create a CareMonkey profile for your child/children. If you have not received this email please contact our Digital Technologies Leader: Ronnie Tucker (vtucker@smaltona.catholic.edu.au) as it may mean we have an old or out of date email for you. We urge you to ensure your email is up to date as this will be our main communication and contact with you in 2017.

If you have received your initial email and are having difficulty creating your profile you can email CareMonkey directly for support (support@caremonkey.com). Or alternatively, when you are logged into your account on the bottom right hand corner is a purple live chat button. You can use this to get questions answered instantly. We hope it's a pretty seamless process and look forward to moving ahead with CareMonkey in the new school year.

School Holidays and screen time!

As we move into school holidays it is important to have in place some rules and boundaries for screen time. One idea is to have a list of other activities for the children to complete before reaching for the screen. This could be reading for a set time, writing a journal entry, room tidied, a household chore completed (or a couple), outside play, creative play (colouring/construction) etc. This gives the children some incentives and you may find they get so engrossed in those activities that the screen is no longer a priority.

It is also a good time to discuss with your children what is appropriate to view online. For the older students, parents need to ensure appropriate behaviour for online applications like Instagram and Snap Chat, remembering also that really children under the age of 13 should not be signed up to some social media applications. Remind children that inappropriate language and online bullying is in no way acceptable, and perhaps discuss with them some consequences if they behave inappropriately online!

Refer back to our newsletter article on 28th October for some further tips about staying safe online.

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 2017, after a fun-filled, enjoyable, restful and well-deserved holiday.

David Kelly
PRINCIPAL



Make up **Swimming sessions** for Year 1, 2 & 3 Students will be held on 6th, 7th & 8th February 2017. More information will be sent in Week 1 Term 1.



Congratulations to our winning House Team for 2016: **GREEN** Team.

Well done to all students in Green team and also to our Green House Leaders, Cody Harris and Sienna Cutajar.

IMPORTANT DATES.

31st January	First Day of school 2017	8.30am – 8.45am
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TUCKSHOP HELPERS

Week beginning 31st January 2017

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday Cynthia Bitaks

Thursday

Friday Paula Luppino

Manager: Eva Coppola Tel: 9315 0799



UNIFORM SHOP 2017

Uniform Shop hours for 2017 will be Monday 8.30am - 9am and Thursday 2.30pm-3.10pm. We are still looking for volunteers to help out. Please email if you are willing to help.

We will be open the day before school starts for children, Monday 30th January **11am - 12.30pm ONLY** for last minute supplies. Please ensure that you have enough uniforms, in the correct sizes prior to the end of Term 4.

A reminder that any uniform order can be sent through to stmarysaltonauniforms@gmail.com. Payment can be made via direct deposit or cash in an envelope dropped off to the school office. Uniforms once ordered and paid will be sent home in your child's school bag. Items can be ordered and paid for during the school holidays and will be available for pick up from the school office on the first day of school for children, Tuesday 31st January 2017.



Condolences

Please keep Lucas Giardina 1/2D and his Family in your prayers following the recent passing of his Grandfather.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

And have a Safe and Happy New Year

