Dear Parents & Friends of St. Mary's,

As we continue our journey through Lent and in this Holy Year of Mercy, we hold the people of Fiji in our thoughts and prayers after the recent devastating earthquake.

Welcome Fr. Paul

As we said farewell to Monsignor Toms last week, we now welcome Fr Paul officially to St Mary’s College. We hope that Fr Paul will enjoy his time with us and we look forward to seeing him around the College. Welcome Fr Paul!!

Sad News

The College community has been terribly saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs Holley McMennemin, mother of Angus (JP-C) and wife to Adam. We extend our deepest sympathy to Adam, Angus and the whole family. Many of our families are related to the McMennemin family or have known the family for many years. Holley was a very familiar face every morning and afternoon in the JP area and we ask that the whole St Mary’s community keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

The College community was also saddened this week to hear of the passing of Mrs Monica Keating, mother of secondary Maths teacher Mr Martin Keating. Monica passed away last Sunday after a long illness. Many of our families would remember Monica and her husband Kevin who owned Keating’s News Agency in Station St Seymour for many years. Our condolences are extended to the Keating family.

Staff Update

A warm welcome is extended to Ms Julia Wood who will be teaching at St Mary’s for the next four weeks. Unfortunately, Ms. Heather McCall has had a re-occurrence of her health issues and will be required to take temporary leave until the end of term.
Although it was a very warm day, we had a wonderful Athletics Carnival on Tuesday. Thanks to Miss Karen Dalrymple, the PE Team, Kev Jones, Bec, Peter, Josh & Ben Bath, and Ken & Matthew Whitfort, everything was set up and ready for us to go early on Tuesday morning. Thanks to Amanda Wyllie for opening the canteen - the cool drinks and icy poles were very much appreciated! Thank you to all the parents and senior students who helped out on the various events. It is a huge team effort. There will be a full report next week, with Age Champions and the winning house to be announced at the Whole College Assembly tomorrow.

Congratulations to all students on their behavior and participation and to the fantastic effort from all staff.

Our Year 10 students participated in a Leadership Camp last week in Melbourne. There will be a full report next week but we wish to congratulate the students on the way they participated in the camp and the way they conducted themselves at all times. They were fabulous ambassadors for St Mary’s College.

We held our second morning gathering in the LRC (Library Resource Centre). Mrs Anne Spencer (P-4 Co-ordinator) told us about the start to 2016 for P-4 children. We will have another gathering early in Term 2.

Although greatly appreciated we will not be accepting donations of TV’s this year. Any Big or Bulky items please contact me to make sure your items can be accepted. Many thanks, Danni Thompson (0418 208 954)

This year ‘Brick Venture’ Lego Company will have an Exhibition in the Parish Hall on Carnival Day. The College is also running a Lego Competition. Bring in your ‘free form creations’ or ‘instruction built’ ones. Age groups 4-6; 7-9, 10+. Entry fee $2.00

All entries must be dropped at the Parish Hall on Friday 18th March between 8.30am-9.30am OR 3.00pm-4.00pm. Entry fee will be taken at the same time and each entry labelled. A representative from Brick Venture will judge the competition. Prizes generously donated by Seymour Toyworld.

Come and join in the fun.
Raffle Tickets

Every family has been asked to sell one book of tickets and we can all support the P & F by returning the Raffle books no later than Monday 7th March. If you can assist with the sales of tickets (in the Station St Mall and Safeway) please contact Lynne Morgan in the Canteen.

Book Stall

We have been inundated with donations for the Book Stall and therefore do not require any further donations.

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Spinning Wheel Baskets

The Spinning Wheel baskets were distributed to the classrooms this week. The following is a list of the various items being collected in each classroom:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JP-C</td>
<td>Baby Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP-F</td>
<td>Canned Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP-P</td>
<td>Pasta Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP-S</td>
<td>Jams &amp; Spreads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP-B</td>
<td>Pet Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP-E</td>
<td>Canned Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP-J</td>
<td>Bathroom Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP-A</td>
<td>Car Care Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP-G</td>
<td>Biscuits &amp; Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP-M</td>
<td>Garden Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP-K</td>
<td>Chips &amp; Lollies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-W</td>
<td>Kitchen Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-M</td>
<td>Paper/Party Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-H</td>
<td>Stationery Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-F</td>
<td>Laundry Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-A</td>
<td>Home Hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-D</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-H</td>
<td>Toiletries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Krispy Krème - Original Glazed Doughnuts

Orders and payment must be returned by Wed. 9th March for ordering on Friday 11th March 2016

Mr Peter Kelly

Families with students in Year 8-10 are reminded that the following payments were due by 1st March.

- Laptop instalment (Year 8-10)
- VET/VCE balance (Year 10 only)

Final payments by the College to various institutions for the VET/VCE courses of students in Year 10 are now being made and it is therefore important that families meet their commitment by this deadline.

Our preferred method of payment is by Direct Deposit to:

St Mary’s College
BSB: 083 890
Account: 629 211 120

Please quote the Fee Account Number on your statement and your surname and VCE (or VET) or LTOP as reference.

Payments can also be made in person.

Please contact me at the College if you wish to discuss the payment of fees and levies. Thank you.
Lent is a time of conversion and a time to deepen one’s faith, demonstrating and sharing it through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Pope Francis said.

“Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit,” the Pope said in his message for Lent.

Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming strangers, offering instruction, giving comfort -- “on such things will we be judged,” the Pope wrote in the message.

Every day at St Mary’s we are seeing examples of people showing their love and support through acts of mercy: being kind, providing meals for those in need, older students caring for younger ones, staff offering to cover yard duties, parents giving up their time to help events run smoothly or assist in the classroom and supporting the most vulnerable through Project Compassion.

We see acts of mercy carried out every day in our College Community. We pray for the strength and compassion to continue to do so during Lent. and for the rest of this Year of Mercy.

**Crazy Hair Day**

Our next Lenten activity to raise money for Project Compassion is **Crazy Hair Day tomorrow**. Students may wear a crazy hair style or spray colour their hair for the day.

A gold coin donation for Project Compassion will be collected from those students who are making their hair crazy!! Full school or sports uniform is required. Friday is NOT an out of uniform day.

**And on the subject of hair…**

We are so very proud of Charlie Becks (SP-M) who on Monday night made a huge sacrifice to raise both funds and awareness for people who suffer from Alopecia (hair loss). Charlie had her long blond locks cut by Clare Jamieson (mother of Lily Thorpe (SP-G) and she has donated her hair to be made into a wig for someone suffering from this very difficult condition.

Congratulations Charlie on this tremendous effort and for thinking about others.

This is truly an example of putting your words into action.

Welcome to baby Nate Hayes, son for Carrie and Kacey and new brother for Ella (MP-B) and Aiden (JP-S)

Congratulations to all!!!!!
We are ready for feedback about learning this year! Interim Reports will sent home Friday, and Optional Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 15th March.

Please check your child’s bag for their Interim Report tomorrow. This report is to give you an indication of how your child is going so far this year. We believe that it will help us all in understanding what has been achieved so far and in planning for the next term.

There is an option for interviews but it is not necessary to meet all parents at this stage. Please see the appointment booking form enclosed with the report.

The report should be read alongside the Learning Overviews for each year level, distributed in week three, either at the information night or via the students. This will give you a clear picture of what work is being done and feedback of your child’s learning so far this year.

The four areas shown on the report are interconnected and all have an impact on learning. For a child to reach their potential the four areas need to be considered together.

Ideas for Home Learning appeared in last week’s Marian (Yr.5-7 News). Take the time to revisit it and have a discussion with your child about the strategies that would be useful for them.

Mathematics, challenge

Problem 1 Can you put the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the squares so that each side adds up to the middle number?

Problem 2 Sam loves basketball and can sink the ball in the net 65% of the time. If he takes 30 shots, how many will he sink?

Have a go! Learn something new everyday!

On the horizon

... looking ahead,
  - Yr.8 Camp ‘Hall’s Gap  9th -11th March
  - Yr.10 Keys Please Incursion – 15th March

LEARNING OVERVIEWS

Achieved – is the comment against the curriculum standards at this age and stage of schooling. It is a guide of what the child has succeeded with and of what learning comes next.

Success – I’m here! Now I’m ready to learn the next thing.

Approaches to Learning – these comments indicate how the child views the learning process. It is important that they see learning as a challenge and that having a go and making mistakes are ok in order to learn new things.

Learning involves a challenge and I need to persevere.

Home Learning – daily life is busy, so is school life, sometimes we need to revise our day’s learning in order to master it. Other days we need to complete work not done in class. Teachers have 40 weeks of curriculum to complete in a year and every moment counts!

There is always something that should be done at home each day.

Behaviour – the learning environment needs to be one in which teaching and learning can occur. Students have the responsibility to do their best, be resilient and let others and the teacher focus on the work of the lesson.

I can only do my best when I am being my best.

Mrs Christine Buhler
**Lets Bin It!!!**

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful environment in which to learn and play. Keeping our grounds safe and respecting each area within our school is an important focus. It therefore falls to staff and students to ensure we treat our space with respect and we take pride in our school.

At St Mary’s we have certain procedures to ensure our yard remains clean and these procedures include designated eating areas. The major area where food is not to be eaten is the oval. We ask that the message from home about litter and respecting property is consistent with our positive approach at school. School and home working in partnership is key to creating the best learning environment possible for our students.

**Wellbeing Balance**

Having a positive life balance is extremely important in the development of any child. This balance must exist for Prep students right up to our Year 10 students. Asking some simple questions can assist parents in exploring whether their child/ren have a healthy life balance:-

- How many hours of sleep a night is my child getting?
- How much screen time (TV, Laptop, iPad, games console etc) does my child have? Each day? Each Week?
- Does my child exercise? How? Everyday?
- Does my child eat a healthy diet? Are treats/takeaway a “SOMETIMES” food?

As we enter the final weeks of the term some students become very tired and it is important for parents to ensure they are creating every opportunity for their child to get a good nights sleep and adequate down time, especially on weekends.

**Photos**

Order envelopes have been distributed to all students. Photos are ordered online at [www.arphotos.com.au](http://www.arphotos.com.au) using the code provided. If you are unable to order photo’s online then order envelopes and payment must accompany your child/ren on Photo Day.

All students are required to be in their complete Summer Uniform. Students who have sport on this day will need to bring their sports uniform to change into.

Orders for a Family Photo can also be done online or a Family envelopes is available for collection from the College Office - prior to Photo Day.

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**‘Wellbeing Words of Wisdom’…**

I believe that every person is born with Talent.

**Mr Sean O’Brien**
Issue 2 is out now. Order forms are due back by Friday 11th March. Any enquiries please contact me at the College on 5792 611.

PS: To avoid disappointment, please be sure to get your orders in by the advertised deadline!

Mrs Linda Heveren:
Library Resource Centre
Dear SMC Families

I’m really excited to be with you, to share so many marvellous events (and the simple things), and to be of support in any way.

It was a very touching time when Monsignor Toms made his final move last Saturday. It has been a privilege for me to witness the culmination of his life-long service. He will be dearly missed.

Remember, I’m always up for a home visit, a house blessing or just a chat. Never hesitate to get in touch.

God bless.
Fr Paul

frpaulnewton@gmail.com
Presbytery: 5792 1064,
Mobile: 0418 294 847

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Extend After School Care at St Mary’s College (Primary Campus)

‘Recap’

Last week the children had a very science like week. We participated in lots of different activities with a few of the highlights being creating gods eyes, making bouncy balls and making pinwheels. We also welcomed two new goldfish pets into our class room, the children named the two fish Ruby and Lucy. Introducing the goldfish into the room gives the children a sense of responsibility as they take it in turns to feed the fish a certain amount. This also lead to activities related around the fish, the children coloured in all different fish, and we made a very large ‘rainbow fish’ to start a wall mural of ‘under the sea’.

Chelsea Wallace (Team Leader)

Our Extend Superstar for the week is... Ivan Kovacic!! - Ivan is a very friendly member of our room, and always makes everyone laugh and feel happy! He brings a very positive ‘vibe’ to the after school care room!!.

Next week’s activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 7th March:</th>
<th>Tuesday 8th March:</th>
<th>Wednesday 9th March:</th>
<th>Thursday 10th March:</th>
<th>Friday 11th March:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feather crowns/Masks</td>
<td>Outside play – Weather depending</td>
<td>Hand prints on canvases</td>
<td>Lava Lamps</td>
<td>Cardboard Roll people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Portal: extend.com.au