Dear Parents

It’s great to see the children back into the groove of school and working to the best of their abilities. We have had up and down weather during the Swimming Program but the children need to be congratulated for dipping their toes in on Monday when the weather was quite cold.

A reminder that our Swimming Carnival is next Wednesday 15th February. We look forward to the children competing against one another and having a fun day together.

I am slowly getting to know each family, it will take a bit of time but hopefully we will all be on a first name basis soon. Thanks again for coming up and chatting to me and please remember my door is always open if you have any concerns.

The School will be investigating new programs throughout the year to help support children in different areas of their learning. The teachers in the Junior School will be part of the LEM Phonics Professional Development Program, the Leadership Team will be undertaking a Monash University Coaching and Feedback Course in March, and the whole staff will be listening to a presentation from Deb Surkana on Reading Comprehension this coming Monday, 13th February. (School Closure Day).

A Parent Information Night will be on Tuesday 28th February commencing at 5pm. I invite all parents to come to this night and join the staff for a shared tea at the conclusion of the Grade 5/6 Meeting. To start the evening I will be running a short presentation about some of the new initiatives for the 2017 School Year. This includes information on Reporting and Assessment, St Mary’s completing School Renewal, Student Support and also question time for parents. Please come along it will be a great opportunity to find out important information for this year. The Program will be as follows:

5.00pm - 5.30pm - Principal Address (Library)
5.30pm - 5.45pm - Prep Meeting
5.45pm - 6.00pm - Grade 1 and Grade 2 Meeting
6.00pm - 6.15pm - Grade 3 and Grade 4 Meeting
6.15pm - 6.30pm - Grade 5 and Grade 6 Meeting
6.30pm - Tea together

We look forward to seeing you on this afternoon and please be in contact if you require any further information.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Jason

School Closure Day Monday 13th February 2017
Thank you:
Over the school holidays, Daniel Hunt generously gave his time to complete some gardening around our School.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF):
As mentioned in last week’s newsletter this Fund now replaces the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Financial assistance for eligible families is now available through Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF).

If you hold a valid concession card (as at 30th January 2017 and/or 18th April 2017) or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the School to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

Contact the School Office to obtain a CSEF Application form - please return to School Office by Friday 28th February 2017.

Classroom Helpers:
Parents, friends and grandparents are always welcome to help in the classrooms or with special programs. Please see your child’s teacher if you are able to assist in any way.

If you intend to assist a Working With Children Check (WWC) is necessary. Likewise, volunteers/helpers for excursions, school camps and overnight stays must have their WWC.

As of 5th December 2016, Victorian applicants for the Working with Children Check are able to have their identity securely verified online, reducing the time it takes to finalise their application at a participating Australia Post outlet. Apply online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

Swimming Carnival Dates:
St Mary’s School House Swimming Sports:
Wednesday 15th February
HDSSA Swimming Sports:
Wednesday 1st March
Wellington Zone Swimming Sports:
Tuesday March 7th
Gippsland Regional Swimming:
Thursday March 16th

Bookclub:
Scholastic bookclub catalogues will be handed out today and are due back on Wednesday 15th February. A flyer for the LOOP ordering and payment platform for parents can be found in this week’s newsletter.

R.E. News:
Welcome and Hello, last week and this week have been both wonderful and challenging for me. I need to thank my class of children and the considerate staff for helping me find my way and directing me to the various different routines I need to learn at school. Ash Wednesday is March 1st and begins Lent. During that time of preparation I am organising a social justice team to coordinate donations for the annual Project Compassion appeal run by Caritas Australia.

Any student from Grade 3 to 6 can apply in writing to be part of the Social Justice Team. They will need to write a letter explaining why they want to help and what qualities they can bring to the group. At this stage there will be 10 spots in the group.

The Social justice team will be working with me throughout the year to come up with entertaining ways to raise funds and create interest throughout the school and community concerning social injustices.

Letters of application can be brought to 4/5F classroom any time before Friday February 17th….

Yours in Faith,
Anne-Marie Robb (REL)
**Uniform:**
St. Mary’s School takes pride in its official uniform. It has been established over many years and is recognised as an economical and practical code of dress. The school uniform identifies students as members of the St. Mary’s School Community. The children are encouraged to wear their uniform with pride, and behave in a manner which reflects creditably on themselves, their families and their school. Parents are required to ensure that the full uniform is worn at all times.

**Boy’s Summer Uniform**
- Grey shorts, mid thigh length
- Pale blue shirt
- Grey socks
- Navy pullover with school emblem
- Black leather shoes
- School hat

**Girl’s Summer Uniform**
- Blue/white check dress, white collar and cuffs
- White socks
- Navy pullover with school emblem
- Black leather shoes
- School hat

**Sports Uniform**
- School polo shirt (with emblem)
- Navy blue mid thigh length shorts
- Tracksuit – navy blue with school emblem
- White socks

We understand that during the holiday season and at weekends children enjoy wearing decorative jewellery and make up occasionally, however, we do ask parents to assist the school by ensuring that these decorative items are not worn during school hours. Sleepers or studs are acceptable.

**Parents will be notified if their children are not in correct uniform as stated above.**

**School Hats**
Until **30th April**, it is compulsory for children to wear an approved school hat for all outdoor activities as stated in our school’s Safety and Health Policy. We ask that parents support us in our efforts to ensure our policy is adhered to. Please note that the hat must be an approved St Mary’s school hat.

**P & F Meeting**
A welcome meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st March at Macalister Hotel.

**Newsletters 2017 - Delivery:**
During 2017, we will continue to have an electronic newsletter. Upon request Mary or Kylie will e-mail them out to you also.
All of our newsletters are on the School Website and also the most recent newsletter on the School App. You still can still pick up a hard copy of the newsletter at the School Office, a few copies will be made available.
If you wish to have your newsletter emailed to you, please complete the form below and return it to School Office. Alternatively you can email us principal@stmmaffra.catholic.edu.au with your email address and you will be added to the mailing list.
If you have not downloaded our App, download in the Apple App Store and via Google Play for Android devices.

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY:**
Please add our email address to the newsletter mailing list.

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** ..............................................................................................................................

**Family Name:**........................................... **Signed:**...............................................................
Happy birthday to the following children who have celebrated birthdays so far this year!

February
5th Chloe Murphy 1/2B
   Bailey Perdon 3/4D
6th Samuel Phillips 1/2B
7th Isabel Goldsmith 3/4D

Asthma & Anaphylaxis Course

At
MAFFRA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
48 Kent Street, Maffra

Asthma- Tuesday 28th February
6.00pm - 8.00pm
$60.00

Anaphylaxis- Thursday 2nd March 2017
6.00pm - 8.00pm
$60.00

Please enrol at Kemp Aquatics
69 McLean Street Maffra 3860
Phone 51411127
Email: kempaquatics@netspace.net.au
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
**Parish News:**

### WEEKEND MASSES:

**MAFFRA:**  Sunday 9.00am

**HEYFIELD:**  Saturday 6.00pm

**COWWARR:**  1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am

**NEWRY:**  2nd & 4th Sunday 11.00am

**DARGO:**  5th

### RECONCILIATION:

- **Maffra:** Saturday – For Half Hour after 9.30am Mass (And any other time by request).
- **Heyfield:** 5.20pm-5.45pm prior to Saturday evening Mass

### Maffra:

- **MONDAYS:** availability will be announced at Masses the Sunday prior. **
- **5th February:**
  - **15th Feb:**  Wed. 5pm - followed by ½ hour Adoration & Reconciliation
  - **16th Feb:**  Thur. 9.30am
  - **17th Feb:**  Fri. 10.15am
  - **18th Feb:**  Sat. 9.30am
- **Heyfield:**
  - **14th Feb:**  Tues. 10.15am No Mass – Father Away.

### ST. MARY’S MAFFRA PRESBYTERY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS:

#### Sunday 19th February

- **8.30 am:** St. Mary’s school leaders ring church bell.
- **8.40 am:** Rosary of thanksgiving in church led by school children.
- **8.50 am:** Slideshow of old photos
- **9.00 am:** Mass
- **10.00 am:** Travel out to visit the graves of priests in Maffra and Sale.
- **12.30 pm:** Meet at Mons. Callanan’s grave in the grounds at St. Mary’s Maffra for prayer.
- **12.35 pm:** St. Mary’s school leaders ring church bell to begin lunch
- **12.40 pm:** onwards: BBQ Lunch, presentation/sharing of stories and booklet, blessing of renovations, display in presbytery, olden day games for children.

Anyone wanting to sing in the choir for the Mass is welcome to sit in the front pews. The parish will supply sausages, bread and sauce as well as some vegetable burgers for vegetarians. Every family is invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. Tea, coffee and cordial will be provided. **If you know of anyone wishing to attend who may need a ride or other assistance, please let the parish office know.**

For any further information, please contact the parish office on 41471921 or speak to a member of the Parish Pastoral Council: Roy Shelton, Veronica Dwyer, Michael Dillon, Kevin Christensen, Terry Donahoe, Pauline Hall, Jason Slattery, Christa Dwyer or Father Howie.

### MAFFRA CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY CENTENARY CELEBRATION:

**BBQ IN THE GROUNDS ON SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2017 @12.30PM**

For more information contact: St Mary’s Parish Maffra 0351471921
MARYMAF@AUSSIEBB.COM.AU

### ST. MARY’S MAFFRA PARISH AND SCHOOL WALKING GROUP:

Would you like to get fit and meet others? Come and join us for a walk on Thursdays during school term. Meet at presbytery drive way 8.50 and walk around the Maffra wetlands. Children most welcome, pram pushing available. Enquiries to Christa Dwyer 51451415 christadwyer@aussebb.com.au or parish office 51471921

### ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS:

**Reconciliation Commitment Masses:**

- **Sunday 12th February @ 9am**
- **Sunday 19th February @ 9am**
- **Thursday 16th March:** Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop @ 7pm
- **Thursday 23rd March:** First Reconciliation @ 7pm