Dear Parents

The term is moving quickly with everyone in routine with back to school activities. It is pleasing to see the children involving themselves in all aspects of schoolwork and it must be said classroom and playground behaviour is fantastic. I am slowly coming to know everyone and it is obvious what a great place St Mary’s is to learn.

This week the Grade Six leaders had a meeting with me to discuss a range of topics including The Social Justice Group, fundraising, The School Uniform, prep buddies and the upcoming St Mary’s Presbytery and Parish Centenary Celebrations. The leaders have a clear vision and want to help promote the school and be a ‘voice’ for all of the children. Well done to our leaders!

This Sunday, 19th February we have the celebration of the Centenary of the St Mary’s Parish and Presbytery at the 9am Mass. It would be nice to have a representation from families on this day. The Grade Six leaders who are attending are commencing celebrations with the ringing of the bell outside the Presbytery at 8.30am. Some of our children will also be helping Father Howie during Mass. At the conclusion of Mass families have the opportunity to visit the graves of past Parish Priests and then return for a free BBQ at 12.30pm. Children’s outside games will take place during the shared lunch.

Both our School Board and Parent’s and Friends Committee have meetings in the next two weeks. The School Board will meet at 5.30pm on Thursday, 2nd March and The Parent’s and Friends on Thursday, 2nd March at 7.00pm at the Macalister Hotel. If you are interested in joining or finding out more about these two hard working committees please make contact with the office. Your support is encouraged and valued.

Please remember Information Night on Tuesday, 28th February. The afternoon / evening will commence at 5.00pm with an address on the upcoming year with yours truly (Jason). I hope to give you a quick insight into some new initiatives that will commence in 2017 from 5.00pm until 5.30pm. This is followed by 15 minute meetings with class levels starting with Prep at 5.30pm, Grade 1/2 at 5.45pm, Grade 3/4 at 6.00pm and Grade 5/6 at 6.15pm. Please stay afterwards and bring some dinner and have a ‘chat’ with one another. This is a great opportunity to find out just some of the programs and activities that will be a focus in 2017.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Jason

Hats are compulsory at school Until 30th April.
School Fees:
School Fees per family will remain the same for 2017:
Family Fee: $1,335 per annum
(includes a Capital Fee of $195 p.a.)
There will be a levy included in the School Fees to cover the cost of excursions. There will be no more cost to families, it will be collected with School Fees within the first instalment rather than collecting money as excursions arise. Children who participate in sporting events such as Hooptime, will still be billed separately as this only involves a selection of children.

Invoices will be for the full year’s fees – the option to pay in three instalments at the beginning of Terms 2, 3 & 4) still applies. (We also accept weekly, fortnightly and other amounts by prior arrangement).
The amount of each instalment will be included on the invoice.
Due dates for payments are:
1st Instalment by 5th May 2017
2nd Instalment by 4th August 2017
3rd Instalment by 27th October 2017
If you have any queries regarding payment options please see Mary in the School Office – invoices will be sent home shortly.

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.

A new form must be completed at the beginning of each school year.
Previous applicants will need to reapply.

St Mary’s Swimming Carnival:
Congratulations to all the children for their behaviour and individual performances at our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see the children enjoy themselves so much! A special thank you to all our Staff for their organisation of the day and to our Sports Captains, who did a great job in leading their teams with true school spirit. To the parents who helped out on the day in so many ways, A BIG THANK YOU.

The final results were as follows:
1st Place: Curran 373
2nd Place: MacKillop 354
3rd Place: Corbett 332

Vaughan Trophy Winners 2017
Lucy Jones
Wil Ross

Swimming Carnival Dates:
HDSSA Swimming Sports:
Wednesday 1st March
Wellington Zone Swimming Sports:
Tuesday March 7th
Gippsland Regional Swimming:
Thursday March 16th
**R.E. News:**

The response to the Social Justice Team has been wonderful. All the responses have included the offering of skills and strategies that will benefit the team. It will be a difficult decision to pick a team from such wonderful children, I will consult with Mr. Slattery and the teachers about the group.

On Thursday, Fr. Howie visited the Grade 3/4 classes and talked with them about the beginning of their Sacramental journey of Reconciliation. He told a story about being prepared for anything. And talked about why Jesus wants us to be happy and to love and be loved. The Children were able to say that “We must love one another to be happy”. Father asked the children what they thought about Reconciliation. Frances said, “You say sorry to Father and you say sorry to Jesus.” Seth said, “Reconciliation is saying sorry for things you have done wrong.”

I invite all children to pray the Act of Contrition at home with their parents both as preparation for the sacrament and as a good habit.

“Oh My God I am sorry that I have sinned against you because you are so good and with your help I will not sin again.”

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**SCHOOL APP:**

St Mary’s has an app for both android phones and iPhones. The App has a calendar with upcoming events, access to the weekly newsletter and the ability to contact school via phone or email. Another feature is push notifications. We suggest that you turn these on when installing the app.

The school sends out quick, short reminder for parents on upcoming events. Another feature that parents may find useful is under the forms tab in the menu. There you will find a form to notify the school of your child’s absence.

To access the app go to:


You can also find it by searching St Mary’s Maffra

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**P & F News:**

**P & F Meeting:**

**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE**

A welcome meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March at Macalister Hotel at 7pm.

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**Meals on Wheels:**

Thank you to all our parents helpers for your assistance with Meals on Wheels this week, it is greatly appreciated.

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**Thank you!**
Happy birthday to the following children who have celebrated birthdays so far this year!

**February**
- 13th Sam Nowak 1/2C
- 15th Ashley Brookes 5/6G
- 16th Jacob Hanratty 3/4D

**Awards:**
Congratulations to the following children who received awards at this week’s assembly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Principal’s Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Ella Rees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darby Higgins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>Brody Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruby McQuillen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td>Jack Garoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Jacob Hanratty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daisy Wilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4E</td>
<td>Lucas Felmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5F</td>
<td>Bridie Bentvelzen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mia Humphris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christopher Dwyer</td>
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**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

MAFFRA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
FAMILY FUN DAY.
At Victoria Park, Kent St., Maffra
Saturday 4th March
5.30pm—10.30pm

- FREE Face painting
- FREE Jumping castle
- FREE Family Entertainment
- Food vendors on site
- FREE movie in the park at dusk featuring: ‘Finding Dory’

BYO chair, picnic rug or bean bag.
Partnering with Wellington Shire Council to bring to you this Community event.
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
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

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Maffra:
** MONDAYS: availability will be announced at Masses the Sunday prior. **
22nd Feb: Wed 5pm - followed by ½ hour Adoration & Reconciliation
23rd Feb: Thur. 9.30am
24th Feb: Fri. 10.15 am
25th Feb: Sat. 9.30am

Heyfield:
21st Feb: Tues. 9.30am (28th Feb there will be a Laurina Lodge Mass)

ST. MARY’S MAFFRA PRESBYTERY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: Sunday 19th February.
8.30 am: St. Mary’s school leaders ring church bell.
8.40am: Rosary of thanksgiving in church led by school children.
8.50am: Slideshow of old photos
9.00am: Mass
10.00am: Travel out to visit the graves of priests in Maffra and Sale.
12.30pm: Meet at Mons. Callanan’s grave in the grounds at St. Mary’s Maffra for prayer.
12.35pm: St. Mary’s school leaders ring church bell to begin lunch
12.40pm: 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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: St Mary’s Parish Maffra 0351471921
MARYMAF@AUSSIEBB.COM.AU