Dear Parents

On Monday the staff attended a professional learning day in Sale run by renowned educationalist Deb Sukarna about expanding our teacher knowledge and understanding of the reading process and how to develop deeper comprehension skills in our students. It was a very rewarding day with lots of practical classroom based activities and strategies we can use at St Mary’s to support reading acquisition and help our children to think about what they are reading.

Deb presented research to us that reinforced how important it is for the children to have a strong oral language base when starting school. Life experiences such as playing in the park, going fishing or visiting a new place and talking about it as a family helps the children bring non-visual information to the reading process and helps them to read the words on the page. These experiences provide a context to what they have read that helps them make sense of the words on the page.

Deb also spoke about the importance of valuing reading as adults so that we make time to sit with a book or a kindle as an enjoyable activity. Then our children see us reading and also learn to value it. If we can teach our children to be passionate about reading then we are skilling them up to be successful learners later in life.

Kind Regards
Jodie Ware

Father,
We ask that you would bless
the youngest and littlest of learners,
the most helpless and powerless of persons,
granting them the strength to learn, concentrate, and act in love towards their teachers and fellow students.
We also ask that You would watch over them, at home and at school and give them proper direction so that they may learn.
Amen
Term 1 2017
Friday 17th February
Guitar lessons start for Term 1

Tuesday 21st February
Yarram & District Schools Swimming
Carnival Practice
(Selected students Gr 3-6)

Friday 24th February
Yarram & District Schools Swimming
Carnival. (Selected students Gr 3-6)
Sacrament of First Holy Communion meeting @ 3.40pm

Tuesday 28th February
Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Wednesday 1st March
Ash Wednesday Mass 10.00am
No hot lunches

Tuesday 7th March
Wellington Division Swim Carnival.
(Selected students Gr 3-6)

Friday 10th March
School Photos

Monday 13th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Sunday 26th March
Sacrament of First Holy Communion @ 10am Mass

Tuesday 28th March
Yarram & District Schools Athletics Carni-
vial. (All students Gr 3-6)

Friday 31st March
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2
Tuesday 18th April
First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 25th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

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**SCHOOL NEWS**

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**SCHOOL FEES**

2017 School Fees have been sent home. Please note that if you choose any of the payment plan options then the first installment and student levy does not need to be paid fully by the 31st March 2017. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**

It is Diocesan and School Policy that all parents volunteering or visiting St. Mary’s have a current Working With Children Check carried out. Volunteer forms are available from the Post Office. These checks are free and take about three weeks to be processed.

**CSEF FUNDING**

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of camps, excursions and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

Applications available from the school office.

**INTERUPTION IN LEARNING TIME**

Each classroom has a green go sign and a red stop sign on the door that lets everyone know if it is ok to enter the room, as often the grade is concentrating on their learning can’t be interrupted.

Teachers are available for an appointment before and after school.

**LOST PROPERTY**

We are missing a sports school jacket from the Prep/1 Classroom. We kindly ask that all families check that their child/children are wearing their own jackets. The child’s name is on the jacket.

**PIANO LESSONS**

Private Piano Lessons
with Yvonne Cipolla
Contact Yvonne @ 0438 526 169

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS.**

The following students need to bring their bathers next Tuesday so that swimming events for the carnival can be finalised: Cooper, William M, Sophie, Lilly, Emily, Grace, Jarvis, Oscar, Lachlan, Ryan, Mikayla, Samantha, Tara, Alyssa, Matthew, Jakob, Hayden & Mason.

A big thank you to all students who came along and gave their best efforts at the trials to compete in the Yarram & District Schools Swimming Carnival, we are very proud of you.

Thank you also to Mandy, Elizabeth, Belinda, Cathy & Tracey for accompanying us to and from the pool each Tuesday, it is most appreciated.

The carnival starts at 10.00am on Friday 24th Feb. Any parents who are attending and are able to assist with a job on the day, please let myself or Mr Sheedy know ASAP, thanking you again for your wonderful support.

**PHYS ED AWARDS**

**Individual Player of the Week:**

For working well with your partner and team mates. CONGRATULATIONS!

Grade Prep/1: Bianca, Xavier & Olivia
Grade 2/3: Ryan, William M & Ava
Grade 4/5: Olivia, Kye & Aimee
Grade 5/6: Tyson, Alex & Jesse

**HOUSE POINT UPDATE:**

Blue - 130 points
Green - 120 points
Gold - 114 points
Red - 106 points

A reminder to everyone to bring their own water bottle each day, as you can then have a drink of water whenever you need it (instead of hoping that you are near the drink taps.) Keeping hydrated is a very important part of making sure our bodies stay healthy, especially on warm days. PLUS you can earn at least 1 POINT for your HOUSE TEAM every week.

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**RAISING MONEY FOR THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION**

In this weeks Standard News is an article on Henry Turnbull who is shaving his hair for the McGrath Foundation in honour of his mother Catherine who passed away from breast cancer when Henry was younger.

Henry and his brothers Austin and Toby were students at St. Mary’s and we would like to raise money to donate to Henry’s aim of $4,000 for the McGrath Foundation.

We are holding Icypole & Yoghurt Days.

Icypoles 50c each
Yoghurts $ 2.00 each

We are holding Icypole &
Yoghurt Days.

Icypoles 50c each
Fridays: 17th & 24th February

Yoghurts $ 2.00 each
Mondays & Thursdays:
20th, 23rd & 27th February

Donations: https://everydayhero.com/au/shaving-my-head-lg! 

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**WILLIAM & OLIVIA EXCITING NEWS!**

Welcome to Our World is the latest CD released by Andrew Chinn. Andrew is an Australian Religious singer/songwriter. Last year he contacted our school asking for two students, who had performed with him on his last visit to our school, to be involved in the recording of his latest CD. He asked for Olivia and William. This week William and Olivia received an autographed copy of the CD. We are very proud of their dedication and achievement.

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Happy Birthday to those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Kunjal & Mrs. Cook