Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The children have settled into routines very quickly and we have been working at full steam from day one. This term will be a relatively short one of eight weeks so there is much to be achieved during that time and we will be busy.

With small groups, we will be able to ensure that the individual child will be carefully monitored and support provided where needed. Our classes will be the smallest in the area – something to be envied by other schools, teachers, parents and students alike. Our P/1 room has 10 students, eight in the 2/3 room and 12 in the 5/6 classroom.

The whole staff is looking forward to working with you and your children over the coming 12 months to make our school even better.

This year is our year of review so there will be much to do together as the year progresses.

Cliff

Welcome back brekky

All families are invited to attend this whole school activity. Please put it in your diary for Tuesday 9th February. We plan on offering breakfast from 8.00am to 9.00 – eggs and bacon. Yum!

If anyone has eggs that they could donate for the breakfast, please let a staff member know.

P-3 excursion

The Grade P-3 students brought home a permission form for an excursion to the Arts Centre on Monday. They will be seeing a play called Boxy and Sticky. Cost is $13.50 per student. Please have forms and money back by 12th February.

Excursion date is: Friday 19th February. The children will need to take their lunch on that day.

Thank you to the families who have responded already.

Emergency Drills

A part of our emergency management plan says that we have to have regular fire drills. We do this so that the staff and children are well practiced in the event that there is a fire.

Uniform orders

Debbie is going to place an order with our suppliers on Monday. If you have any orders for uniform items, please have them into Debbie by Monday morning.
Good On You Cob!

Where we recognise any member of the community, student, parent or staff, who has done something that is positive and supportive.
Lunches for Term One;
Friday 5th February – Subway
Friday 12th February – Canteen
Friday 19th February – Subway
Friday 26th February – Special lunch
Friday 4th March – Subway
Friday 11th March – Canteen
Friday 18th March – Subway

If you are able to volunteer to undertake canteen duty please see either Deb or Cliff.

Christmas raffle results.
The raffle was drawn on the last day of school last year. The winner was Tash, second was Imogen and third was Max. Congratulations.
Thank you to all families who donated items for the raffle and purchased tickets.

MARC library
The library lessons will be provided by Jocelyn Russell on Wednesday mornings. Your child will be able to loan books for 2 weeks. Please ensure that these are returned. The junior room has a tub that returns go into, even if they are returned before Wednesday. Library bags for the junior children are a great idea to help protect and preserve our books – not just the MARC books.
Any lost or damaged books will be charged for.

Student information forms
Attached to this newsletter are the current details we have for your child and your contact details. If you have changed phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc., please make the changes and send the forms back to school before Friday 12th February.

School banking
Our school banking day will continue to be Tuesdays. We have attached a banking application form for your use if you are interested.

School council 2016
The school council has lost a valuable and dedicated member in Kelly. She and other members have provided great advice and assistance to myself and the school, over many years.
The school council meets at 4.15pm on the third Monday of the month.
We will be calling for nominations for Kelly’s vacancy in the near future.

Hats
The school’s Sunsmart policy states that the children must wear a broadbrimmed hat when outside at breaks or during P.E. or sport. Hats can be purchased from the office for $10.00.

Rosie
Rosie will commence her music program this week. At this stage her day will continue to be Friday but this may change with her study commitments.
Piano and singing lessons
30 minutes duration
Private session $20.00 Group session $16 per student – max of 2 students per group.
Rosie also provides a high quality ensemble session for the grade 2-6 students once a week that we fund from the school resources.

Money Matters
Jeanette Kalinski (Finance Manager) will be in the office on Tuesdays. Can parents/carers please contact her directly with any queries relating to payments or receipts on a Tuesday.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2016 ST. MARY’S PARISH
Parents of children not attending St. Mary’s School who are wanting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Grade 3), Eucharist (Grades 4 or 5) or Confirmation (Grade 6) in 2016 are asked to contact the Parish Secretary – Tammie Dalgleish on 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au as a matter
Parents/Carers are requested to read the CSEF eligibility requirements and if eligible, request an application form from the school which needs to be completed and returned as soon as possible. The criteria will be strictly adhered to.

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.
* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Skipping Captains for 2016
Congratulations to Mariam, Maddie and Saxon. Mariam and Maddie are co-captains with Saxon being a capable vice captain.
In the art room this week......
This week in the art room the grade 2/3/5/6’s began a two week project of creating their very own stuffed teddy bear where they began to create an original plush toy and learnt some textile skills. Take a look at the students work below.