Dear Parents and Friends

This year our theme is **Light Up Our World**. This theme is taken from last Sunday's Gospel Reading where Matthew challenges us with the words, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put under a tub; they put it on the lamp stand where it shines in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works they may give the praise to your Father in heaven."

This Gospel reading is reminding us that we have been given gifts and we should use these gifts to do good in our world. As a school community, we will be working towards being people of God who bring love and a shining light to others.

Our students are already bringing a shining light to my day. Over the past week, it has been wonderful to hear their happy and polite greetings as I move around the playground. St. Mary's students are very positive young people and we look forward to these attributes developing further and to watching them grow in their understanding of how their actions can make a difference to others.

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Access to Parent Page via Myclasses Foyer

www.sm greensborough.catholic.edu.au/mydesktop

Please use your child's Username and Password to access St Mary's Parent Page in the Myclasses Foyer. Candela is also available on our web page.

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Our Goal is to be:
A Safe, Inclusive, Happy and Respectful Community. For 2011, our theme is 'Light Up Our World'.

Our Value for Term One is "Love."

**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**
We will gather as a whole school community on Tuesday 15 February to celebrate the commencement of the Academic Year with Mass at 9.15am. Please come along and celebrate the Eucharist with us.

**STAFF LIST 2011**
Helen Anderson - Principal
Cathy McCarthy - Deputy Principal/Student Wellbeing

**Year 6 Teachers**
6 C Grace Carrick
6 D John Dwyer
6 G Damian Gilmore
6 MS Shelly Michalke & Bronwyn Sheridan

**Year 5 Teachers**
5 B Jenny Browne
5 H Candice Hannan
5 S Kellyann Stella

**Year 4 Teachers**
4 C Laura Ciavarella -
4 GM Anne Graham & Fiona MacIsaac
4 PM Catherine Picioane & Di Manthos

**Year 3 Teachers**
3 LR Maureen Lamb & Liz Rouse
3 R Carmel Ritchie
3 WR Moira Willits & Liz Rouse
Year 2 Teachers
2 C Laura Cardillo
2 M Amelia Morse & Maree McMahon
2 WS Elizabeth Whiting & Carolyn Smith

Year 1 Teachers
1 C Jessica Costa
1 ML Mary McEntee & Allison Luff
1 R Erin Rasolo

Prep Teachers
Prep B Liz Bertolin
Prep W Sue Webster
Prep S Catrina Studdert

Specialist Allocation
Gabriella Leone - Director of Contemporary Learning, Marg Colangelo - Director of Special Education & Student Services, Valli Lorenzin - LOTE, Shelly Michalke - Maths Leader, Erin Rasolo - Maths Junior Leader, Elizabeth Whiting - Literacy Leader P-2, Di Manthos - Literacy Leader 3 - 6, Tilly Stoove - Library Resource Centre, Amelia Morse - Religious Education Leader, Paul Healy - Phys Ed, Pam Leibel - Reading Recovery, Janet Zappulla - Counsellor, Kurt Geyer - Music and Drama

School Officers - Fran Jolley (Secretary), Philippa Griffin (Bursar), Bonnie Dickson, Lisa Tsakmakis, Marian Tacey, Sharyn Ryan, Gary Collings (Maintenance), Helen Miller, Nella Sutera, Eileen Brennan (Cleaner), Angela Toomey.

SCHOOL BANNER
We now have a new School Banner made by Mary Jahnne, which is spectacular. Our new Banner will be used for the first time at our Opening Mass.

HOUSE REQUIRED
Over the holidays, a school family lost their home and most of their possessions in a house fire. They will commence a re-building project, but in the mean time, they require a house to lease for a period of 3-6 months (although it could be longer). A two-three bedroom house in Greensborough or surrounding suburbs would be ideal. If you know of anyone who would be willing to rent a property for a short term period, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact the Office if you can assist.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
In keeping with Legislation, it is now necessary for those who are assisting with school activities to hold a current Working with Children Card. These may be obtained from Australia Post. You will need to provide a passport photo and supply proof of identification. There is no cost in applying for a volunteer’s card. When assisting at school, you will be required to present your card when signing in and then record the card number in sign-in book. It is a good idea to apply for this card now so that you will be able to assist with activities involving your child at school such as attending excursions, helping in class and assisting on sports days.

PARENT ONLINE PAGE
To assist in the communication between school and home, the Candela and all notices sent home are made available Online via our Parent Page. Instructions as to how to access this page are included in each Candela and are listed below.

The Online Edition of the Candela and general notices are available on St. Mary’s “Myclasses” page. Go to http://www.smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au/mydesktop Please use your child’s Username and Password to access St Mary’s Parent Page in the Myclasses Foyer. Your child’s Username is your child’s given name and first letter of their surname, all in lower case with no spaces. Eg. Helen Anderson would be helena. The Password is abcd e unless your child has personalized their password. Please speak to your child about their password. Click on “Myclasses.” Find St. Mary’s page and open link.

This facility will soon be available to new families.

The Candela is also accessible on our School Webpage. www.smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au Go to “News and Events” and scroll down to “Newsletter Candela.”
CONGRATULATIONS

We were thrilled to hear of the safe arrival during the holidays of two babies born to school families. Congratulations to Matt and Julie MacDonald and their children, Sophia (3WR), Joseph (1C), Raphael and Francis on the safe arrival of Anna-Lucia. Congratulations also to Bryan and Nicole Kearney and their boys, Lachlan (2M) and Flynn (PS) on the birth of Zara. We wish both families every happiness as you welcome your babies into your lives.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 23 February where you will be able to discuss your child's learning goals for Semester One. Teachers of students in Yr 1-6 will be available to meet with parents between 2.00 -4.00pm, 4.30pm -6.30pm and 7.00pm-8.30pm. Prep Interviews are being held at a separate time. Please contact your child's Prep teacher to arrange an Interview time or complete booking form displayed outside classrooms.

This year we are using an Online Booking System for Interviews. Please find attached information outlining the process to book your Interviews. If you do not have Internet access, please come to the Office where you will be assisted to make a booking.

NOTICES

At this time of the year, it is necessary to send numerous Notices home. It would be appreciated if your response to and return of these Notices could be prompt. Notices that now require your attention.

- MEDICAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FORMS
- ANAPHYLAXIS AGREEMENT FORM
- COMPUTER USE AND ONLINE AGREEMENT FORMS
- WORKING BEE COMMITMENT FORM
- PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW REQUEST (Online)

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Our Anaphylaxis Policy requests that parents agree, to the best of their knowledge, not to send nut based products to school. It also includes a "no share food" statement. Therefore, I ask that cakes, lollies etc are not sent to school to share on occasions such as birthdays. If your child wishes to celebrate with their friends, you may like to consider sending such items such as stickers, pencils etc.

WORKING BEE COMMITMENT

Today you will receive the dates of all Working Bees for the year. Each class is assigned to a Working Bee and you are asked to attend your class' Working Bee. However, should you not be able to attend your allocated Working Bee, you may select another date to come along. It is important that you complete and return this Notice as this assists us to plan tasks for each Working Bee.

Our first Working Bee for the year will be held on Saturday 19 February and has been assigned to families of Yr 1 students. Morning tea and lunch are provided. The whole family is encouraged to come along and make our Working Bees a real community event. Looking forward to seeing many in attendance.

PREP AND Yr 6 BUDDY WELCOME

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Our Prep/Yr 6 Buddy Program is a highlight program for both our Prep and Yr 6 students. Through this program, our Prep students are supported through their first year of school by their Yr 6 "buddy." Together, they develop a relationship that has a positive and often lasting affect on both the Prep student and their buddy. On Thursday 24 February, we will be holding a Sausage Sizzle in the school grounds commencing at 5.30pm. This is an opportunity for Prep and buddy families to meet. We are hoping all students involved in this program and their families will be able to come along. BYO drinks, chairs, rug. Looking forward to seeing you there.
CAR PARK SAFETY
It is important that care is taken when driving in the school grounds. I ask that you do not park in the lower car park area between the hours of 9.15am and 3.15pm as the boom gates are closed down during these hours to allow this area to be used as a play area. I suggest that you use the William Street Car Park if you are assisting in classes or attending a meeting etc during school hours. It is most important that parents and students use the designated pedestrian crossings during drop off and pick up times. Please do not walk amongst cars in the car park.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
We are pleased to be able to offer our students a range of extra curricular activities throughout the year.
Extra Curricular activities planned for our students for 2011 are as follows:

Term 1
- Tennis Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr3, Yr 4 & Yr5
- Swimming Yr 4 & 5
- Interschool Sport Yr 6

Term 2
- Rugby Yr 3 & Yr 4
- Interschool Sport Yr 6 and Footy Clinics

Term 3
- Dance Yr 1, Yr 3, Yr 5 & Yr 6

Term 4
- Gymnastics Prep, Yr3 & Yr 4
- Swimming Yr 2
- Rugby Yr 5 & Yr 6
- Squash Yr 6
- Circus Skills Yr 6

PARENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS
Today Janet Zappulla presented the first of a series of four Workshops to assist parents with the challenges when dealing with changes as our children grow and develop. Further sessions will be held in the James Kierce Centre on 17, 24 February and 3 March between 9.15am and 11.00am. Baby sitting is available. I highly recommend these sessions to parents. Bookings are not required.

PARISH AGM
The AGM will be held in the Church at 3.00pm on Sunday 27 February. After the 5.00pm Mass, there will be a Parish Picnic. All are invited to attend.

ARRIVAL TIME
Supervision of the school grounds commences at 8.40am. Students therefore should not commence arriving until 8.30am. Any student needing to be dropped off before 8.30am must be booked into our Before School Care Program.
Supervision in the Play ground ceases at 3.45pm. Any child still waiting to be picked up is then brought to the Office. If you are unable to collect your child by 3.45pm, you are asked to book them into the After School Care Program.

CALENDAR
A Calendar listing dates for the year was issued last week. Today an updated Calendar is attached to the Candela. Please note, Term 3 School Closure Day has been changed from 19 August to 9 September due to a change in the facilitator’s availability. I apologize if this causes any problem for you.

### COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Program commences Yr 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Yr 5 Swimming commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Opening School Mass 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>OOSH Parent Information Meeting 7.30pm</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Parent Workshop 9.15am</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Working Bee Yr 1</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Parent Workshop Prep/Buddy Welcome Sausage Sizzle 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Parish AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Yr 4 Swimming commences</td>
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Regards

Helen
THE CLASSROOM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to the following children who will celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks: Charlotte Luff, Edward Dynes, Meg Jowett, Anthony Scarfo-Pasinetti, Talea Page, Rene Shannon, Jack Boskovski, Isaiah Joseph, Jessica Kalkos, Naomi Whimpley, Ryan Bowkett, Andre Crivelli, Benjamin Wolczko, Jack Coady, Kelvin Nguyen, Zachary Prentner, Patrick Carbis, Flynn Wilson-Parker, Larissa Ambrose, George Glasby, Jack Orlebar, Indiana Anderson, Chiara Di Stefano, Tom Colley, Abbey Hughes, Lucas Lin, Michael Metaxas, Taela Wilson, Giulia Ferronato, Kieran Randall, Jacob Vidajic, Jordan Harvey, Isabella Kos

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the worthy recipients of this award to be presented at Assembly.
Year 6C  Jayden Gleeson, Richard Abiharb
Year 6D  Will Crompton, Jakob Taylor
Year 6 G  Jacinta Borg, Richard Li
Year 6MS  Tom Hyde, Jordan Gabriel
Year 5B  Michael Karkala, Cody Lee
Year 5H  Paris Sinclair, Taela Wilson
Year 5S  Michael Gentile, Ashley Boek
Year 4 C  Brigid McEntee, Sebastian Toomey
Year 4GM  Rachael Dooley, Samuel Prentner
Year 4PM  Francisca Garrido, Helena O'Reilly-Finnie
Year 3 LR  Eimear Feeney, William Redgrave
Year 3 R  Caitlynn You, David Jeong
Year 3 WR  Patrick Blake, Tyra Clayton
Year 2C  Larissa Melchiorre, Luke Gullone
Year 2M  Matthew Brennan, Kaja Sajfar
Year 2 WS  Karina Munro, Helena Kubicik
Year 1 C  Amy Grouios, Shaymus Oliver-Delaney
Year 1 ML  Chiara Di Stefano, Jack Orlebar
Year 1 R  Lucas Coppelino, Indiana Anderson

CAN YOU HELP WITH TRANSPORT?

One of our senior students requires transport home from school each day to Plenty Road Bundoora. If you are able to assist kindly contact the school office.

PREPS

Our new Preps commenced this week and have settled well into school. We look forward to getting to know each of them over the coming weeks. Prep attendance times are as follows:

Week Commencing - 14 February - Full day attendance 9:00am - 3:30pm 4 days (No school Wednesday)

Week Commencing - 21 February - Full day attendance 9.00am - 3:30pm 4 days (No school Wednesday)

Week Beginning 28 February - Full Time 9.00am - 3.30pm - 5 days

School Fees and Levy

The Education Board has ratified the following charges for school Fees and Levy to be charged in 2011. Charges will be as follows

- Student Levy $295 (per student)
- Tuition Fee $1260 (per family)
- Capital Levy $270 (per family)

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

EMA Forms are now available from the school office and parents eligible to claim the allowance are requested to fill in and return the form by Monday 28 February 2011. Enclosed with the Candlea are EMA conditions and eligibility details for your information.

CDF STUDENT BANKING

Welcome to another year of student school banking. We encourage you to open an account for your child to teach your child about saving. CDF banking day at our school is Tuesday and will commence next Tuesday 22 February. A CDF Application form for you to open a new account may be obtained from the school office.
Working Bee
Saturday 19 February
8:30 – 13:30

There are many tasks to complete: Mowing, weeding and brush cutting, cleaning of gutters and drains, plumbing works (any plumber who can help John Wood is MOST welcome to attend), sand pit restocking and a general tidy up. There is quite a large amount of work, but if we have 20 or more people attending we will easily finish prior to 1200 so all can enjoy a BBQ lunch at 1230. We also really need a couple of people to help with the BBQ from 1115am - 1330pm. (any one that can help with the BBQ alone, please call Maree on 9432 2138) - we are looking forward to seeing you there. John Wood (0438396072) & Phill Goulding (0417327618) - MaD Committee

The School and Parish would like to extend an official thanks to Anthony Traynor (Outgoing President) and Danny Verbeeten (Outgoing Secretary) who have been involved and supported the MaD over the last 8 years. They have both done a fabulous job!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The Uniform shop will be open for business during the following times:
Monday: 8:30am - 10:00am
Wednesday: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Friday: 8:30am - 10:00am
You may order through the office, just complete the order form and return it back to school.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAM
On behalf of all the staff and committee, we extend a warm welcome to all our existing and new families for 2011.

REGISTRATIONS: Please ensure that you register prior to requiring care. Registration Forms are available at the Program and must be completed in full and returned to Tanya or Barbara with a $25 registration fee.

BOOKINGS AND CANCELLATIONS:
Any bookings or cancellations should be made in a timely manner in accordance with our bookings policy. If you need to make bookings or cancellations please call the Program on 9432 7103 or come in and see Tanya or Barbara.

REMINDER: The Program will not be open on Labour Day Monday 14th March 2011

FEES: Note that the current fees are - $9.00 per child in the mornings and $12.00 per child in the afternoons. Families are advised to ensure their account is paid daily, weekly or fortnightly. We accept cash, cheque, EFTPOS and credit card.

PREPS: To all our prep families, we remind you that you are able to access the program from Monday 14th February 2011. Please be assured that program staff will drop your prep child/children off to class in the mornings and pick them up in the afternoons. This will continue till the end of Term 3.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION NIGHT:
The Program invites all families currently using or intending to use the Program to attend an information night regarding our transition to being run by Camp Australia. The information night will be held next Wednesday 16th February 2011 at 7:30pm in the James Kierce Centre.

COMMUNITY NEWS
WATSONIA PRE-SCHOOL GARAGE SALE
Saturday 12 February 8.00am - 11.30am 19 Crelin Crescent, Watsonia.
ATTENTION: FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN YEAR SIX

Applications for enrolment at Loyola College, Watsonia in Year 7, 2012 close Wednesday 2 March, 2011. This also applies to families who already have children at Loyola. Application forms can be accessed via our website: www.loyola.vic.edu.au

TRIATHLON VICTORIA

Triathlon Victoria, the 'not for profit' state organisation, is running a series of Free Triathlon Training Open Days in conjunction with Community Clubs in February for children aged 7 - 15 leading up to the Weetbix Triathlon. Northern Region Open Day will be held on Friday 18 February 4:30 - 6:00pm at Ivanhoe Primary School, Waterdale Road, Ivanhoe. Contact Mark Beovich to register. mark@triathlonkids.com.au

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an internationally renowned program for children to come to know and encounter God joyfully and simply. We offer a Montessori environment with many hands-on materials such as models of the scriptures and parables, miniature altar, vestments, maps of the Holy Land and art activities. The program runs each Friday afternoon in the tennis clubrooms from 1.45-3.15pm for 3-5 year olds and 3.45-5.15pm for 5 - 9 year olds. You are welcome to come and see the environment before these sessions. Two no-obligation trial sessions also available for interested families. For further information please contact us! Bernadette Thorley 9435-5142, Brian Rooney 9434 2125.
WATSONIA HEIGHTS JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB
Club Registration and Information Day Sunday 13 February 2011 10:00am - 1:00pm Elder Street Reserve. Players wanted for 2011 - boys, girls and mixed teams ranging from small sided teams in U4's - U7's and U9's - U11's to competitive teams from U12's to U18's. For further information visit www.whjsc.org.au

LOYOLA COLLEGE
A Catholic, Co-Educational Secondary College
325 Grimshaw Street, Watsonia warmly invites Years 4, 5 & 6 and their families to an Information Night Monday 21 February, 2011 Tours from 6.30pm. Formal Presentation from 7.30pm - 8.30pm Bookings are not required. Ample parking in and off Bungay Street. For more information please contact Community Liaison: Maureen Lonsdale 9433 0228

PARADE COLLEGE ART SHOW
Opening Night Friday 11 Feb 7:30 - 10:00pm
Saturday 12 February 9:30am - 5:00pm
Sunday 13 February 9:30am - 4:00pm
36th Parade College Art Show College Hall - Atrium 1436 Plenty Road, Bundoora. 9468 3300 or artshow@parade.vic.edu.au

LOYOLA PARENT EDUCATION SEMINAR PROGRAM
A Parent Education Seminar Program is being offered to the parent communities of Loyola College over the coming year.
Term 1 Wed 2 March - Learning about the Catholic Faith
Term 2 Thursday 19 May - Numeracy & Your Child
Thursday 23 June - Parenting & Adolescence
Term 3 Monday 29 August - Cyberspace, Social Networking & Your Child

BANYULE CALISTHENICS CLUB
Try your first 2 classes FREE!
Tinies (7 yrs and Under), Sub-Juniors (7 - 9 years), Juniors (9 - 12 yrs), Intermediates (12 - 16 yrs), Seniors (16 yrs and over), Masters (26 yrs and over). For further information please contact Anne-Marie Casamento on 9432 9727 or enquiries@banyulecalisthenicsclub.com

SANTA MARIA COLLEGE ANNUAL REUNION
Date: Sunday 27 February 2011
Time: 2pm - 5pm
At: Santa Maria College
For: Past students and staff of the College
For further information call Santa Maria College on 9489 7644.

PARENT SEMINAR SERIES 2011
A PROGRAM FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS
This seminar will provide a better understanding of the needs of boys so you can adapt your parenting. You will get essential information and lots of strategies and some reassurance to help you raise your mighty boys into mighty fine men.

WORKSHOPS
1. Raising Mighty Boys - Presenter: Michael Grose
2. Thriving - a new approach to positive parenting - Presenter: Michael Grose
3. Anxiety & Depression - Presenter: Murray Evely
4. Valuing Girls - Presenter: Andrew Fuller

Registration/further information contact Co-ordinator - Shirley O’Sullivan 9464 5225 or Email shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au
All seminars cost $10 per person.

SCHOLARSHIP - ST KEVIN'S TOORAK
Academic Scholarships - will be offered to boys of academic potential whose parents value the type of education offered by St Kevin's. The examination will be held on Saturday, 26 February from 9:00am to 12noon. Register online www.stkevens.vic.edu.au Applications close on Friday 18 February 2010.
10 February 2011

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher Interviews for Grade 1 to Grade 6 will be held between 2.00pm – 8.30pm on WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2011. Prep families have had their interviews or can contact their prep teacher. You can book interviews for the times that suit YOUR FAMILY. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS OPEN on MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY at 9:30am and BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY at 9:30am.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter THIS school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

BOOKINGS OPEN THIS MONDAY 14th February at 9:30am SO THAT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN GRADE 1 TO GRADE 6 MAY BOOK AT THE SAME TIME

For parents who don’t have internet access may come to the Office or phone the school on 9433 4000. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes, if you require more time, please contact your teacher directly and make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview times any time prior to the closing date, by revisiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on: 9433 4000.
Working Bee Roster-2011

Dear Parents

Your support for all activities at our school is very much appreciated. St Mary’s has always been a community where people have worked enthusiastically together and has built a culture of support for all within the community. In a world where people can become isolated, it is most important that we keep our sense of community alive.

With our ongoing building and development program, there will be much to do over the coming year.

It is with this in mind, that I ask that all of us makes an effort to participate in school activities and events and that you give some of your time to committees etc. One important way of gathering together is through our Working Bees. Each family is expected to attend at least one Working Bee per year. Below please find the dates of our 2011 Working Bees. I ask that you indicate which Working Bee you will be attending as this will assist the MAD Team to plan projects throughout the year. If you are unable to attend your child’s/children’s Working Bee, you may choose one that fits in with your schedule.

Trusting that 2011 will be a year of good participation from all and the beginning of new and lasting friendships.

Yours sincerely

Helen Anderson
PRINCIPAL

Reply Slip  Please return by Wednesday 10 February

Family Name................................................................. Phone Number..............................................................

Email .................................................................

Child/Children and Class/es .................................................................

Please tick Working Bee/s you will be attending

19 February  Year One Families  □
18 March   Twilight Working Bee - All Families  □
19 March   Prep Families   □
14 May   Year Two Families   □
30 July   Year Five and Six Families   □
15 October   Year Three and Four Families   □
10 December   All Families  □

Signed........................................................................

Signed........................................................................
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<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
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<td>Staff resume</td>
<td>27 Term 2 commences</td>
<td>18 Term 3 commences</td>
<td>10 Term 4 commences</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Testing Group A</td>
<td>28 Whole School Easter Mass 12pm</td>
<td>21 Eucharist Family Night</td>
<td>15 First Reconciliation 9.00 - 10.00am</td>
<td>15 First Reconciliation 9.00 - 10.00am</td>
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<td>Testing Group B</td>
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<td>29 Tree Planting Day</td>
<td>15 Working Bee 8.30-1.30pm-Yr 3/4</td>
<td>15 Working Bee 8.30-1.30pm-Yr 3/4</td>
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<td>All Preps 9.15 - 12.30</td>
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<td>Parent Workshop 1 with Janet Z</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Meetings</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Prep Buddy Picnic</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Parent Workshop 3 with Janet Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Preps full time</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sacrament Night</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Parent workshop 4 with Janet Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day(School Leaders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ash Wed. Mass 9.15</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Twilight Sports / Catholic Ed Wk</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Open morning+Twilight tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY-Staff PD</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Twilight Working Bee 4.30-8pm-ALL families</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Working Bee 8.30am-1.30pm-Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Open morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Prep 2012 Information Night</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6-Year 5 Camp</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Easter Paraliturgy 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes 1.45pm</td>
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**ST MARY'S GREENSBOROUGH**
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes.
Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away, illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others.
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.
Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities.
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience.
Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school.
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.

Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.

There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child's chances of school success.

1. Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve.
Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.
If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home.
One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time.
Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides assistance to eligible families by helping with the costs associated with the education of their children.

In 2011 the EMA payment for parents/guardians is $230 for primary school students and $460 for secondary students. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school and is paid in two instalments as per the schedule of payments set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion payable to</th>
<th>Primary school rate*</th>
<th>Secondary school rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One (70% of EMA)</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 80.50</td>
<td>$ 161.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 80.50</td>
<td>$ 161.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two (30% of EMA)</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 34.50</td>
<td>$ 69.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 34.50</td>
<td>$ 69.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 230.00</td>
<td>$ 460.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) forms the basis for calculating the amount payable. Students turning sixteen during the year will be paid on a pro rata basis up to and including the month they reach the age of sixteen.

The first instalment will comprise 70 per cent of the EMA and will be paid from March 2011. The second instalment will comprise the remaining 30 per cent and will be paid from August 2011. This payment schedule recognises that families incur the highest educational costs at the start of the school year.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the EMA, you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and
- submit your application to the school by the due date.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2011 which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (18 July 2011) for the second instalment. Any applications based on Centrelink payments that are not income tested (e.g. Carer Allowance, formerly Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Remote Area Allowance) are not eligible unless the claimant, in their own name, complies with the second dot point above.

The EMA is payable up until the age of 16 years. Once a student turns 16, they should apply for Youth Allowance through Centrelink. For further information visit www.centrelink.gov.au

Application forms

Application forms are available from your child’s school. A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.

Please submit your application to your child’s school by 28 February 2011 for the first instalment of the EMA and by 5 August 2011 for the second instalment of the EMA unless your child remains enrolled at the same school and you were paid the first EMA instalment.
Payment methods

Direct Bank Deposit (EFT) payment option: EFT payments can only be made to the parent’s nominated bank account for parent’s choosing the EFT payment option. Please advise your child’s school if your nominated bank account changes during the year.

Cheque payment option: Cheques payable to parents will be sent to the school for distribution for parent’s choosing the cheque payment option. Please advise your child’s school if your address changes during the year.

School portion of the Education Maintenance Allowance

Schools must spend the school’s portion of the EMA on essential educational items for which all parents are normally expected to provide. Such items could include:

- student text books
- student stationery (e.g. pens, pencils, exercise books, work-books)
- materials for electives where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles (e.g. home economics etc) or the payment sought is the difference between the basic materials/services and the higher cost alternatives
- programs provided by outside specialists (e.g. visiting artists, speakers, performers)
- camps and excursions which are integral to the curriculum and which all students are expected to attend
- school identification cards
- school uniform
- official diary/handbook/work planner
- student computer printing beyond the needs of the eight Key Learning Areas (e.g. personal use).

The school’s portion of the EMA cannot be used to offset voluntary contributions. Common examples of materials or services which are supported through voluntary contributions are:

- equipment purchases
- buildings and grounds beautification
- library fund
- general contribution to the school.

Schools need to inform parents on request of the cost of the items on which they propose to spend the school’s portion of the EMA.

Schools are only custodians of the school portion of the EMA. If a student transfers to another school, the balance of the school’s portion must accompany the student to the new school.

Any portion of the EMA which is not expended by the end of the year must be returned to the parent/guardian. However, with agreement of the parent/guardian, this money can be carried over into the next year or other appropriate arrangements made to suit the needs of the student.

Questions

All queries relating to eligibility and payments of the EMA should be directed to your child’s school.