

CANDELA

St Mary's Primary School, Greensborough

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*This new year, like
a new born child,
is placed in our
hands.*

*The old year has
gone.*

*The days and weeks
and months to come
are pure gift;*

*They carry God's
blessing.*

*Bless us, O God,
and bless the time
and seasons
yet to come.*

*Fill this New Year
with your grace and
compassion so that
all who come into
our lives*

*may see a reflection
of your Spirit.*

DEAR FAMILIES,

A Message from Principal Marisa Matthys

Welcome to 2022

I warmly welcome you back for the 2022 school year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable and refreshing break, particularly as once school begins your life becomes extremely busy. We experienced true summer weather during the holidays and in our first week of school. It is such a joy to once again be together regardless of the minor Covid restrictions still in place.

As is usual for Term One, this term promises to be a busy one. I hope you feel extremely welcome and I am very excited about beginning the 2022 school year. Please contact me if I am able to assist in any way as I will always do my best to assist. It is my hope that you all have a rewarding and happy year. I have faith that everyone will be enriched by our school community.

Congratulations Prep Students and Parents

Congratulations to our Prep students who have settled in so beautifully. It has been a joy getting to know the students and you, their parents.

A Message from Principal Marisa Matthys, continued

Vision Statement

St. Mary's is a dynamic Catholic community of empowered learners engaging justly in the world.

Covid Restrictions

It is still imperative that all parents maintain 1.5m physical distance when socialising in and out of our school grounds. As a school community we certainly want to follow the CECV operation Guidelines and keep everyone safe. Just a reminder to please send me your child's exemption for mask wearing if they have one. Sending it via email will be fine.

Financial Assistance

All families that hold a valid means tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, may be eligible for financial support provided by the Victorian Government. There is a special consideration category for asylum seekers and refugee families. For those eligible, a grant of \$125 per primary school student and \$225 per secondary student is payable to the school. This money is to be allocated to costs associated with sport activities, excursions and camp. If you are eligible, you are encouraged to apply. The \$125 will be deducted from your School Levy. Please contact Rochelle in the Office for an application form.

Meet the Teacher

At this stage we have decided to postpone 'Meet the Teacher' due to Covid restrictions. I am hopeful that by the end of February we may be able to have parents entering our classrooms therefore as a team we believe it is better to wait than to organise Google Meets. I will keep you updated.

School Closure Days 2022

School Closure dates for 2022 are Term 1 (Monday 31st January), Term 2 (Monday 23 May) Term 3 (Friday 12th August) Term 4 (Monday 31st October, Friday 25th Nov). Please mark these dates in your diary. Camp Australia will be open all day on these school closure days.

Working Bee

The first Working Bee for the year is on Saturday 12th February (Year 4). Hopefully the weather will be conducive to achieving a great deal around the school. I look forward to seeing many names on the involvement form survey which was sent home. Many hands make light work. We really missed the MAD team in the last two years. There is much to be achieved. [Please see flyer attached.](#)

Prep yr. 6 Buddy Picnic

Just a reminder that the Prep Yr. 6 Buddy Picnic is on Thursday the 24th February on the school oval at 5pm. I look forward to gathering together and enjoying each other's company. These events are a wonderful way to build relationships and to relax and have fun as a school community.

FIRE Carrier Program

At our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 2nd March, students and staff will be inducted as our new FIRE Carriers. These people will lead the FIRE Carrier program in 2022. "FIRE Carriers," an acronym for "Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education," is an initiative through the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry of Victoria. Through this program, the FIRE Carriers are commissioned to raise awareness of reconciliation for the wrongs of the past and to promote peace and justice for all, along with learning about and appreciating the rich culture of the Aboriginal peoples. Over the coming weeks, the students will be painting the Totem Poles that stand in our Reflection Garden. There is a Totem Pole for each Level, one for the teachers and one for our community. Each year these are painted to reflect our story for the year. The Totem Poles will be blessed and the FIRE carriers commissioned in a ceremony after Mass on 2nd March. Confirmation of times and further information will be forthcoming.

Arrival Time

Supervision of the school grounds commences at 8.30am. Students therefore should not arrive prior to this time. Any student needing to be dropped off any earlier must be booked into our Before School Care Program. School begins promptly at 8.50am. If you are using the Kiss and Drop at Admin, please ensure your child/rens bags are not in the boot, but rather with them. Students exit cars on the left at the Admin Kiss and drop and they exit the car on the right at William St and Roadway. Please ensure you follow these important safety procedures.

A Message from Principal Marisa Matthys, continued

Dismissal Time

It has come to my attention that parents/carers are walking across to the carpark without using the supervised crossing. It is crucial that you model safe behaviour to your children.

Under no circumstances are parents/children to just walk across from the admin building and not use the supervised crossing, safety is everything.

Latecomers

Just a reminder that any student who arrives after 8:50am must sign in to Compass in the school office. It is essential that these protocols are followed to ensure all students are accounted for and safe. Please assist your child to be punctual thus providing time for them to settle in and socialize.

Communication/Compass

All communication in 2022 will be via our website, and Compass. This will improve communication ensuring a more streamlined approach which was feedback received from parents. Learning will be shared through Seesaw and Google Classrooms. It is vital that all families have logged in to Compass as you are missing vital school information if you have not done so. Having the Compass App on your phone means you are receiving real time information. If you are having difficulty logging in please contact our IT Leader Belinda Cheong. bcheong@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au, we are happy to help you.

Sacraments

The Sacramental and Liturgical Calendar for 2022 has been placed on the school Website so that you can access dates for the entire year. In Term One Eucharist will take place for the Year 3 students. The General Faith Night is on Tuesday 15 February. The link to register for this Zoom meeting is

[HTTPS://WWW.SCHOOLINTERVIEWS.COM.AU](https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) CODE ZP79U

Further information will be forthcoming regarding preparation and booking times.

Whole School Assembly

On 28th of February, St Mary's will hold a whole school assembly on the Piazza at 9am. Our school leaders will be presented with their badges and bomber jackets. Parents are welcomed to attend. Further information will be forthcoming via Compass.

Meditation

Just a reminder to all parents and carers that we are meditating as a whole school at 8.55am. This means that for 5 minutes the Admin team will not be able to greet you at the front office. If you are in the Admin foyer we ask that you sit in silence, listen to our students and join us in our prayer time. It is a great way to begin our day.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended to Wendy Brown (Mother of Emma), Maddisen and Logan (past students of St Mary's) whose very much adored Mum, Emma passed away recently. May she now rest in eternal peace.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Stingas family on their beautiful addition, baby Violet Stingas. Welcome to the St Mary's Family.

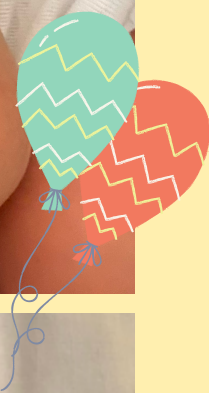
Marisa Matthys

Principal



welcome little one!

BABY VIOLET STINGAS



A Message from the Parish

The Retreat in Daily Life

Can be a life changing experience.

What is your image of God? Does this image engage you in an intimate and loving relationship with God, or does God seem distant or even irrelevant to your life? Do you feel grounded in your life, or confused and wonder if your faith and spirituality can make a difference? Do you desire to deepen your relationship with God? Or, are you perhaps just curious? The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are a life changing retreat and offer rich prayer material, different methods of discernment and the opportunity to discover the ways in which God is calling you at this particular time of your life.

The retreat will run from the 8th of March until early October, with retreatants having material with which to pray, at home, each day and time to gather as a group for sharing each week and regular one to one time with a spiritual director.

The venue for the information and enquiry afternoon which is on March 8th at 1.00pm, as well as the future group sessions, is the Gathering Space of the church. The Ignatian spiritual directors leading this retreat are Terry Fanning and Jacinta Bright.

Cost – by donation.

For enquiries prior to the introduction and enquiry afternoon, please contact Jacinta at the parish office, 9435 1543 or Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au

Kindest Regards,
Jacinta Bright



Student of the Week

Prep S

Harvey B

For being a respectful member of Prep S and always using whole body listening. What a fantastic start to school you have made

Niamh

For beginning school with enthusiasm and determination. You are a great role model of kindness to all your classmates.

Prep F

Ned W

For being a respectful member of Prep F and always having a go in our class discussions. Well done, Ned!

Bella J

For being a respectful member of Prep F and always using whole body listening. What a great start to the year. Well done, Bella.

Prep K

Bella S

For beginning school with a big smile, positivity and an excitement to learn. Well done on being friendly and welcoming to your classmates. Looking forward to a wonderful 2022 in Prep!

Alessandro T

For beginning school with so much enthusiasm and excitement to learn. What a wonderful way to start your primary school journey. Looking forward to a wonderful 2022 in Prep!

1MZ

Elijah

For being such an enthusiastic and positive member of 1MZ. You have demonstrated the 5Ls and you are very respectful to your peers.

Evie

For being such an enthusiastic and positive member of 1MZ. You have demonstrated the 5Ls and you are very respectful to your peers.

1B

Gabriel

For being confident in sharing your ideas with your classmates and always finishing your work quickly and efficiently. Great work Gabriel.

Chloe

For demonstrating the 5L's in class and always being respectful to your peers. Keep it up Chloe.

1V

Mark J

For commencing the year with great enthusiasm. Thank you for always displaying our 3R's in the classroom. Keep up the wonderful work!

Neive VDD

For a positive start to Year One. It has been wonderful to see you having a go and contributing your ideas to our class discussions. Well done!

2G

Jack R

For demonstrating respectful listening towards your classmates and teachers.

All of 2G

For showing kindness and respect towards each other and for being very welcoming as we start a new year together.

2HB

Jacob C

For demonstrating whole body listening and showing respect towards your peers.

Ghassan

For your responsible choices in helping your classmates and using beautiful manners.

2M

Taylor S

For beginning the year with a wonderful attitude and for displaying the 3R's. Keep up the amazing work Taylor.

Lily K

For demonstrating the 3R's and beginning the year with a fantastic attitude. Keep up the great work Lily.

3S

Charlotte S

For starting the year with enthusiasm and positivity. Keep up the great work.

Tyler D

For consistently demonstrating the 3R's. You have made a positive start to Year Three!

3G

Gilbert S

For demonstrating enthusiasm, positivity and leadership in how you have begun the year in Grade 3. You're setting a great example for our classroom, keep up the good work!

Julia P

For consistently demonstrating the 3Rs in the way you have begun the year. You are a wonderful member of our classroom community Julia, keep up the good work!

3L

Ethan B

For having such a strong start to your time at St Mary's and displaying the 3R's in our classroom. Keep up the great work!

Billie D

For beginning the year with confidence showing the 3R's in everything you are doing. Keep up the great work!

4B

William H

For displaying the 3R's in our classroom, particularly in providing assistance to others. Keep up the great work!

Adele U

For displaying the 3R's in our classroom, by working consistently and quietly. Keep up the great work!

Student of the Week

4L

Caitlin N

For commencing the year with great enthusiasm. Thank you for always displaying our 3R's in the classroom. Keep up the wonderful work Caitlin!

Grace L

For consistently demonstrating the 3Rs, you are a great role model of kindness to all your classmates.

4M

Keria K

For always showing the class respectful listening and trying hard in our morning meditation to be still and in the moment.

Isabel G

For coming into our new class with a great positive attitude and always contributing to group work.

5B

Liam O

For starting Year 5 with positivity and enthusiasm. Well done!

Alexia D

For being a kind and supportive classmate. Great job!

5W

Summer B

For beginning the school year with positivity, enthusiasm and a smile. Well done Summer!

Charlie W

For consistently demonstrating the 3Rs in the way you have begun the year. Great work, Charlie!

5V

Jasmine C

For embracing the 3 R's and using them to help settle into St. Mary's. We are so lucky to have you in our class Jasmine!

Samuel T

For starting the year with an enthusiastic and positive attitude. Keep up the great work Samuel!

6M

Leo C

For being a positive role model who consistently demonstrates the 3 R's and supporting others to persevere when faced with learning challenges.

Elouise D

For your enthusiastic approach to learning and your ability to think critically and offer thoughtful responses during class and group discussions.

6H

Elina D

For making a successful and positive start to your time at St. Mary's. Elina, you show great responsibility and willingness to learn. Well done Elina.

Adam G

For making a successful and positive start to your time at St. Mary's. Adam, you show great enthusiasm and willingness to join in with class discussions. Well done Adam.

6PM

Gloria A

For striving to develop your leadership skills right from the very start of the year.

Elsa

For commencing Year 6 with enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility.

P.E.

Hendrix H 3L

For being such a fair and trustworthy participant in our class as you recognised being accountable and honest during the activity "Ship, Shark, Shore". Well done Hendrix.

Harminder C 5V

For being such a fair and trustworthy participant in our class as you recognised being accountable and honest during the activity "Ship, Shark, Shore". Well done Harminder.

Visual Arts

Aleksander B 5B

For displaying a positive approach to Art and beginning the year with confidence. Great start Aleks!

Louis P 2HB

For creating a complex and detailed design on your nametag. Great work Louis!

Performing Arts

All St Mary's students who have started this year with a yodel in their voice, a spring in their dancer steps and a twinkle in their acting eyes!

Science

All students at St Mary's For starting their first Science lesson with a BANG! You have all demonstrated such excitement, enthusiasm and drive and I look forward to the many discoveries you will all make this year. Keep up the great work!

Thank you from Vinnies, Greensborough

I write on behalf of the Greensborough Conference of St. Vincent De Paul Society, to thank the St. Mary's School Community most sincerely for providing us with 22 Christmas themed food hampers last month, which we delivered to local families a few days before Christmas.

In particular we acknowledge and appreciate the following -

- Principal, Marisa Matthys for allowing St. Mary's to once again be involved in this annual activity, despite the interrupted year of 2021.
- Ana Amorim, Gabee Leone, Tania Micomonaco, Annie Bell, Alison Hall and Taylor Leslie for their dedication and enthusiasm in organizing the collection of goods via the classrooms
- The families who contributed food items so willingly and generously despite the demands on their time and finances
- The children who were part of the collation team who assembled the hampers, which made distribution so much easier for our members, many of who are over 70.

We can assure all of you that the families we distributed the hampers to were thrilled to receive this special gift and to know that they are thought of and cared for by others in their own community. We are so grateful to you all. Your kindness has touched the lives of many, including the members of our Conference! Wishing your school community all the very best for the year ahead.

Maureen Lonsdale, President: Greensborough Conference – St Vincent De Paul Society

With every best wish to you all

Kindest regards

Maureen Lonsdale
Vinnies
Greensborough

