Dear Families,

With the commencement of the season of Winter and the Year 6 preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is timely to warm our hearts and minds by reflecting on the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God comes to us in the power of the Holy Spirit. The spirit of God brings goodness, kindness, wisdom, wonder and awe, knowledge and a sense that the sacredness of God is alive in all people. Whenever I am snowed under with admin tasks, I go to yard and visit classrooms to be renewed by the joyfulness, trust and hope of the wonderful students and teachers in St Martin’s school.

### The Holy Spirit in Society

When Christians call on the Holy Spirit to renew the earth it is not just the physical features of the planet they care about. It is our **social world**, its historical development, political systems, economic order, that concerns us too. Honest governments, just laws, good schools, loving families are examples of social structures where the Spirit of God is manifest. However the Holy Spirit is also encountered in situations which cry out for justice, in people deprived of a livelihood, where rights are ignored and violence and abuse challenge human decency. In these circumstances the Holy Spirit acts within human conscience provoking responses that lead people of good will to work justice and reconciliation.

### The Holy Spirit and the Church

It is through the action of the Holy Spirit that the presence of Jesus remains alive and active in the Church. We know Jesus now through the Holy Spirit which is his own Spirit. In John’s Gospel we hear Jesus’ explicit promise to be with those who believe in him and to send the Holy Spirit to teach the Church and to continually keep alive in the Church of his work and words. Though the Church is a community of flawed human beings, the Holy Spirit has constantly called her throughout her 2000 year history to repentance and renewal and is the source of her life and **fruitfulness**.

http://www.resourcemelb.catholic.edu.au/object.cfm?o=185

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**Creator Spirit, sweep into our lives like a powerful wind, reviving and invigorating us. Open our minds and hearts to your presence moving within us. Stir us with your energy and transform us into life-filled and life-giving people.**

**Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.**
National Reconciliation Week, National Sorry Day
On Monday 26th May the school assembly was led by the student Fire Carriers, who are being supported in their role by Mr Connolly. The significance of this day is to remember those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children who were removed from their families and became known as The Stolen Generation. National Sorry Day has occurred annually on 26 May since 1998. Since the federal government’s Apology to Australia’s Indigenous Peoples on 13 February 2008, National Sorry Day is linked to the Anniversary of the Apology. National Reconciliation Week takes place on 27 May – 3 June 2014. These two dates are significant. On 27 May 1967 Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. On 3 June 1992 the High Court of Australia, in the historic Mabo decision, recognised native title. The aim of National Reconciliation Week is to bring strong and trustful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. It is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

St Martin’s Yr 3 children are learning about Melbourne and Aboriginal culture. They have had excursions to visit the Koori Heritage Trust and the Flagstaff Gardens. The Aboriginal people lived in the Flagstaff Gardens before it was settled by the European settlers. St Martin’s offers an enriching and relevant curriculum designed to promote respect, inclusiveness and rich thinking.

Leila St John Award
Congratulations to our Miss Yeomans, Teacher-Librarian currently on leave, on receiving the Leila St John award on Monday night. Miss Yeomans was nominated by Riley P’s mother and grandmother. Her nomination was centred around her initiatives at St Martin’s LRC. The citation stated “your ability to use social media links to bring colleagues together, particularly your blog. Also your library is an inviting and welcoming space for both parents and children.”

Chess Club
Last week Miss K, music teacher, took the chess team to compete at Alphington. Congratulations to the team members for their improvements on their last performance. Overall the school was awarded 3rd Place. Special mention to Will O (2B) for coming 3rd in the Prep–2 section and to Aidan (5C) who will be competing in the State competition early in Term 4. Special thanks to Miss K for leading this extra curricula activity and to the parents for supervising the children during the competitions.
Principal for a Day
Today our School Captains, Alice and Nicholas are acting in the roles of Principal of our school. They will give more information next Newsletter. The school community would be most impressed with their organisation and planning to make this a great day for the student community.

Starlight Foundation
Millie in 1GC organised this fundraiser. Thank you to the families who donated to this valuable cause. A receipt of $234.35 was issued to the school. The message read, “Transforming the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children, young people and their families across Australia.”

Enjoy the public holiday on Monday. Thanks to all the parents who make time to attend Parent Information Sessions.

These evenings are organised to build strong home-school partnership where common language and understandings support the children in their learning.

Looking forward to seeing the school jam packed on Friday from 8:30am for our open school to showcase Mental Computation. Tuesday 10th June at 7pm all Prep – 2 parents are invited to come to a parent session in the GECCO on Mental Computation.

Regards Trish Stewart Principal