Dear Families,

This is the last Newsletter for Term 2 and next week marks the end of the first semester for 2014. It is important to recall the many ways that members of our school community have supported our students with their learning.

During this Term there has been a myriad of tasks on offer for the students:
Yr 2 excursion to La Trobe wetlands, Yr 3 city excursion, Prep community excursion to Rosanna and Heidelberg, community workers visiting Prep classrooms to share their work details and how they support community development, cross country training and competition, the senior school concert band performing in an Eisteddfod, Yr 5 Scienceworks excursion, completion of the first Maths Olympiad test, Mother’s Day stall, Student Captains as Principal for a day, Sexuality Parent/Child Night for Yr 5 and 6 students, open school morning to showcase Mental computation, Sacramental Information Parent/Child Nights for Confirmation and First Eucharist, Confirmation ceremonies over two nights, Preparation Masses for Confirmation and First Eucharist, class level Saturday evening Masses, class grade Masses and next week will be a sleepover at school for Yr 4 students.

Parents too have supported the social capital of the school with the Night for Mothers and the School and Parish Working bee.

With all these school activities, it’s easy to see why everyone is looking forward to the school holidays.

End of Term dismissal is 1pm on Friday 27th June.

Special thank you to the class teachers and curriculum leaders for planning, organising, teaching and building relationships to create an optimal learning environment for the children. The flowers of tomorrow stem from the teacher planting, nurturing and feeding.

Congratulations
Claire C, 6Z has been selected to represent the Victorian Netball School Team. The competition will be played in August on the Gold Coast.

It is tradition for St Martin’s school to host a coloured clothes day and gold coin donation to support the student/s who make it through trials to State selection. The date set for this fundraiser is the 5th of August.

Open School Morning - Maths, Mental Computation
There was an air of excitement and expectation when students and their parents arrived for the 8:30am Maths Mental Computation sharing. Thank you to the many parents and grandparents who came to support their child/children. Timers made the competition intense while laughter and smiles showed the enjoyment and pride in displaying knowledge.

Special thank you to our Maths leaders Miss Kiodi and Ms Williams for organising this event to showcase the Maths learning for this year.
Flu season – May–October
Our influenza ‘flu’ season typically runs from May to October, usually peaking in August.

At various times throughout the year including flu season, it is important for all of us to remember the importance of good hygiene at school and at home. This includes children and young people:

- covering their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- throwing used tissues in plastic-lined rubbish bins
- washing their hands with soap and warm water or using an alcohol-based hand cleaner
- reducing the spread of germs by avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

Ipads in the junior school
This week the roll out commenced for Ipads in the junior school. A trolley of 30 Ipads are being installed on the top floor of the junior building for the Yr 2 classes to share. Both the English and Maths leaders have been in consultation with the ICT leader to decide on suitable Apps for these Ipads.

Special thanks to the PFA for all of their financial support for ICT devices across the school.

Privacy
Student Christian names and initial or class group are used in our school newsletter. Every effort is made to ensure each child’s identity is kept private.

School holiday project
Safety measures are being installed on the road at the back entrance of the school, i.e Dobson Ave. Bob, parent rep on PAC has investigated the safety issues regarding cars leaving the school premises. A speed ramp, line markings and a fence are being installed to minimise the risk for students exiting the school on foot, from Dobson Ave. Bob, father of Shae and Jonah, has worked with the engineer from Banyule Council to determine and source the best solutions for this safety issue. Many thanks to Bob for his foresight and time given to investigate and consult with appropriate bodies.

Arrival of students at school
Thank you to all the parents who have supported their child with before school supervision. Gates to the school are opened from 8:30am each morning. A teacher is on duty from 8:30am. Students are supervised on top yard before moving to their classroom when the music starts at 8:45am. The first bell rings at 8:55am for commencement of formal classes.

OH and S at school
Following directions from Catholic Education Industrial Relations Unit all urns have been removed from the school. An instant boiling water unit is available in the canteen for morning teas and other social events.

Curriculum Planning for Term 2
Teachers have been working with curriculum leaders to plan topics, lessons and resources for Term 3. Joan, grandmother of Anna, Harry and Jimmy, has given her time and expertise as a trained CEOM maths consultant to plan with teachers. The students’ learning is enriched by support given from members our community.
Reading for pleasure 'boosts pupils' results in maths'
Children who read for pleasure in their spare time perform significantly better at school than other pupils, according to a major study.
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10299763/Reading-for-pleasure-boosts-pupils-results-in-maths.html

With thanks for all that you do to embrace life’s challenges and live out our school motto “Non Recuso Laborem” in your daily actions around the school.

Have a great school holiday break and special wishes to staff members who are travelling to magical Europe in the holidays. Hopefully they will bring us back some of that magical air in their pockets.

Regards, Trish Stewart