Dear Families,

Last week the Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Australia’s first Saint. St Mary is remembered for her belief on which she visioned her actions.

“If you see a need do something about it.”

St Mary’s vision augers well with our school motto, “Non Recuso Laborem,” which is translated to “embracing life’s challenges.”

In living her vision, St Mary worked with a team of sisters to educate children in remote and poor areas of Australia. We know that our children are our future and that the way to ensure that they are not cheated in life is through education. So many parents work to ensure that St Martin’s school promotes education and appreciates differences; thank you to the parents who roster themselves on to be parent helpers to assist all children in their learning. They support, encourage and understand that each child is different. The school community values the big and small contributions of parents and hope that they feel rewarded knowing that they are making a difference by seeing a need and doing something about it.

One of my joys as Principal is having the opportunity of getting to know each child and watching their development. No two children are the same and it is important as educators to remember that just like learning to walk, each child develops at their own rate. Given the right conditions and expectations every child will succeed.

Support for our School Netball Representative in State Team
Claire gave a card to the school showing her appreciation for the financial support given to her.

“Dear St Martin’s Community

Thank you for your support in helping me to get to Queensland to play netball for Victoria.

You raised $580.80! This will pay for my airfare and some expenses.

Your effort is much appreciated.

Love Claire. xoxo”

School Uniform:
After investigation of fabric and styles the proposal was made by parent members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to improve the students’ sport top. The two school uniform suppliers, Academy and My Uniform, made up two tops alternating the positioning of the
main colours; one with a red front and back and navy sleeves and collar and the other with navy front and back with red sleeves and collar.

A couple of students modelled the tops and went to visit the Prep, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 classrooms so that the students could vote on their preference. Parents were also given the option to have a vote. The top chosen by way of majority votes is the one with the navy front and back and red sleeves and collar.

This new lightweight sport top will retail as the same price as the current sport top and will be available from school uniform suppliers for 2015. There will be a three year change-over period before the new sport top is documented as expected school uniform.

On behalf of the school community we extend appreciation to Clare, mother of Annabel, Lily and Charlie for her efforts coordinating the introduction of the new sport top.

Year 6 sport top will remain as it is, white polo with the embroidered school emblem. Year 6 students appreciate their level support and uniqueness identified by the white sport top.

**Head Lice**

A number of cases of head lice have been reported in the school recently. To try and reduce the number of cases, parents are asked to regularly check your child’s hair and advise the school if your child has head lice.

**Government Requests for Information about Students**

Over the last weeks there have been demands placed on schools to release information about students. This information is not linked directly to particular children. One of the requests provides statistics on children’s learning needs and adjustments being made to accommodate each child.

**Prior to First Eucharist**

“It’s when you get the love from Jesus. I feel happy that the Lord’s going to be with me.” Millie.

“It means to me that I’m going to join Jesus and take His body. I feel nervous and excited.” Ty.

“It means to take Communion in God’s family and to receive Jesus’ Body and Blood. I feel excited and nervous at the same time.” Roman.

“I get to be part of God. God trusted me and I should get my First Eucharist done. I feel really good about it because I get to get a Blessing the very first time.” Sara.
**Cyber Safety**

As part of the school’s on-going efforts to ensure that each child has a safe and secure learning environment, regular sessions are offered for students, teachers and parents in regard to Cyber Safety. Please make time to attend the Cyber Safety Presentation in the GECCO tonight at 7pm.

Parents are reminded that the entry age for ‘Instagram’ is thirteen. Teachers are concerned to hear that some children in Year 4 are using ‘Instagram’. Parents are strongly advised to check their child’s use of on-line spaces.

**Two minute Drop-off and Pick-up in Silk St**

Parents are reminded that this is a drop off and pick up zone. Parents do NOT have time to get out of their car and walk their child/children into school if they are parked in the two minute zone. Grandparents and other carers need to be advised about this parking restriction.

**Bottom Yard Pick-up**

For the safety of ALL children, parents are required to leave their car and physically walk their child/children to the car. Children remain with the teacher on duty until they are collected by their parent.

**Drivers MUST take great care when driving in the school grounds.**

*May the joy of the Year 4 children remind us of the gift that we have in the Eucharist. We have weekly opportunities to join with our community to celebrate and be with Jesus through the people, Priest, Gospel Readings and Communion, sharing in Jesus’ Body and Blood.*

*May we all respond to needy tasks.*

*Regards*  
*Trish Stewart*  
*Principal*