Dear Families,

Last week eleven parents joined in an on-line community conversation organised by the Catholic Education Office to discuss Creativity. On arrival the group watched a TED talk video by Sir Ken Robinson “Do Schools Kill Creativity?”

http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity

This forum was organised to support the work being undertaken by our senior teachers with student Writing. It was a structured meeting with specific questions to gauge parent ideas about Creativity. Some of the questions included:

When you think of the word creativity what comes to mind?

Do you know someone you think as being creative?

What is it about that person that makes you believe they are creative?

Think of yourself,.,. your children,.,. etc

The comments from the parents represented said that children’s time is too structured, there’s not enough time given to children to be creative at home. Another comment said that self-esteem is linked to creativity.

I am sure you will find this video an ideal way to reflect on the ways that you support your child’s creativity.

Characteristics of creative people...

They daydream.

They observe everything. They have a natural curiosity.

They take time to think and reflect.

They welcome new experiences.

They are resilient. They fail - and they fail often.

They ask big questions.

They are interested in the thinking of others.

They lose track of time.

They follow their passions.

They connect the dots. They can connect prior learning and knowledge to new situations.
Visiting Principal from Sydney
One of the leaders at the Catholic Education office rang to ask if he could bring his sister-in-law, who is Principal at a school in Sydney, to our school for collegial sharing. This extract from an email from this Principal reminds us all of the great school we have at St Martin’s.

Dear Trish
Thank you so very much for sharing with me. I thoroughly enjoyed catching up with you on Friday. I wish I could have had longer with you. It was such an interesting and informative talk, on the run. You have a wonderful school community Trish. That is obvious the moment when you walk in the front door.
Trish, thank you for your generosity, hospitality and the very warm welcome.
Bless you and your community.
Judy G

Cybersafety
The handful of parents who were able to attend the parent information session on Cybersafety were given extra ideas about parenting in the areas of setting boundaries and open communication by Kate W the presenter.

Some important points to remember:

• Facebook owns all videos and photos.
• Set phone to flight mode if using as an alarm.
• Devices best out of bedrooms for primary school children.
• Recommended screen time for primary students is no more than 2 hours each day, this includes TV, computers, iphones, ipads etc.
• Harder to change behaviour than teach it.
• Have technology free days and nights once a month.
• Model the technology and internet use that you want. All technology including mobile phones in basket at 8:30pm til morning.
• Kids need to learn to control impulse.

For more information about Cybersafety refer to www.cybersmart.gov.au

Book Week
Many thanks to Lisa P for organising events for Book Week; she was our “Queen of Hearts” on dress-up day for the P-2 parade. Thanks to all the parents who supported their children with dress-up day for Book Week celebrations.
Prayers please
The father of Mrs Menta, Year 2 class teacher and Literacy leader, died recently after a short illness. Listening to the stories about his life we heard that he left Italy by ship when he was 12 to be reunited with his dad.

What strength, faith and courage for all of us to emulate.

Thank you for supporting staff members and families at times of great loss and sadness.

New Baby
Congratulations to Lucas P (1GC) and Alex P (Prep T) on the birth of their beautiful baby sister, Sienna.

Leading Languages Professional Learning Program
St Martin’s school has been nominated by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria to be part of the Melbourne University Leading Languages Professional Learning Program. The purpose of this Program is to equip Language Teachers and Principals with the key knowledge and understanding they need to establish or renew languages provision in their schools.

My dad used to say that you need a good frost to kill off the germs.

Frosts also give way to magical sunny days. Enjoy the new life of Spring!

Regards Trish Stewart Principal