Dear Families,

A warm welcome back to our final school Term for 2014.

At the staff Professional Development day at the end of Term 3, time was spent investigating the aspect of Growth Mindset and the effects of Praise on children.

I encourage every parent to find a few minutes to watch this link about praise. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWv1VdDeoRY

I was reminded of a research task I completed some time ago in relation to the long term benefits of encouraging the effort instead of praising the result. Ultimately the desire is to promote intrinsic incentives as opposed to extrinsic reward. Intrinsically we do things because of our positive self-talk and self-efficacy to do our best, whereas, extrinsic reward is looking for acknowledgement from external sources.

Research shows the need for a Growth Mindset to realise our full potential. We need to promote learning as a challenge by encouraging the children to have a go and learn from their mistakes. We need to encourage persistence, determination, an inquiring mind and learning from mistakes and to foster a love of reading.

**Parliamentary Inquiry into Approaches to Homework:**
There were a number of findings made by the committee relating to factors affecting homework performance. It was found that there was particularly strong evidence that homework for the primary school had almost no impact on academic performance, although it may play an important transitional role in preparing students for secondary school, where it was found to be of academic benefit. This is a crucial finding as it challenges setting homework during primary school.
There is also a comment about feedback as crucial in the learning process. The difficulty for teachers in giving feedback about homework is that they do not know how and by whom the homework was completed.

This information is timely for the evaluation of the NO Compulsory Homework approach adopted by St Martin’s this year.

Children’s Health:
Interesting reading about children’s health, the first is about the benefits of activity for boys.

In particular, boys with higher levels of physical activity -- especially walking and bicycling to and from school -- had better reading skills than less active boys, according to the research team.

For more information:


The second article refers to ways to support children with anxiety.
Refer to link below to read this article:

"We found evidence that when parents try to help their anxious children they do a lot of things," said study co-author Armando Pina, an Associate Professor of child developmental psychology at Arizona State University. "Some of them are good, like promoting courage with warmth and kindness. Others are less helpful, like promoting avoidance by overprotecting, which many times leads to more anxiety."

**PFA Trivia Night:**
On behalf of the school community, thanks is given to the parents who have spent time organising a fun social night. It’s not too late to purchase tickets.

**Congratulations:**
Isabella (5VW) won a prize in the Banyule Council competition to draw “Sustainability”. Her drawing showed many aspects about sustainability.

Well done Isabella for entering this competition and taking out an award. Being prepared to *have a go* is a wonderful attribute for any learner.

**Athletics:**
Congratulations to the many students who competed in this inter-school event. The teachers reported that each child was well behaved and demonstrated good sportsmanship.

Good luck to all the students who qualified to compete at the next round of competition. Thank you to Mr Witchell for coordinating the school aths team.
**Walktober:**
Walking to school is a wonderful way to start the day. This daily exercise promotes well-being by releasing endorphins that promote positive mental health. It also assists with social interaction.

If it is too far to walk the whole way to school, please consider driving and walking part of the way.

**Class Selection for 2015:**
Parents are asked to put in writing any special considerations that need to be taken into account with the composition of class groups for next year.

This information needs to be given to the Principal/school office on or before **4pm Thursday, 23rd October.**

Parents are reminded that considerations are for social emotional well-being in relation to other students not teachers. It is not appropriate to request any particular teacher. Class groups are made around the best learning environment for the children. EVERY teacher at St Martin’s is well qualified to address the children’s academic, social-emotional, spiritual and physical learning needs.

**Families not returning to St Martin’s for 2015:**
Parents are asked to advise the school if their child/children are not returning to St Martin’s for 2015 school year; this is exclusive of the Year 6 children. Each child leaving is required by the Government to have a Transfer Note issued by the school they are leaving and sent by mail to their new school. Therefore the name and address of the new school is required to be given by the parents to St Martin’s School.
**Student Fundraising:**
Almost weekly, different students from all year levels make requests for fundraising for a myriad of causes. This year we are introducing the strategy of Year 6 Fundraising Week. All Year 6 students will be involved and will decide the activities and organisations where funds will be distributed. In a Catholic School, Catholic organisations are prime consideration. Week 4 has been set aside for this whole school small change, silver coin, fundraising week.

**Capital Works Projects at School:**
Many thanks to Mrs Cocks for her fabulous organisation of major works during the holidays, the school community appreciates her gift of personal time, during the school holiday break, to improve the school environment. Works included: replacing carpet in the front offices, replacing vinyl in junior building and front entrance, labelling electrical switchboards, conducting an Asbestos audit, installing cupboards in corridors outside Year 2 classrooms and organising indoor and outdoor blinds.

*I am looking forward to greeting lots of walking students to school each morning on Top Yard.*

*Regards*  
*Trish Stewart  Principal*