Dear Families,

I trust everyone has returned to school refreshed after the mid-term break.

Teachers are busy with report writing, end of year formal assessment and working as a year level to prepare concert items. Part of report writing entails working with other teachers to justify and discuss marks given. Take a minute to read this poem that was shared:

The midnight light floods my face
The gunshot made me scared
I pull my blanket over me
A bad life I have beared.

I hate living on this war site
The bright red blood is seen.
The Turkish hold me captive here
I am young and not keen.

I don’t remember my poor dad
Grief stricken but no frown
He didn’t want to fight again
His family, his ground.

Later that day the pigeon came,
Informed me he was dead.
I heard his ghost cry out to me
And weeped upon my bed.

Ella, 4V
**Prep 2015 Welcome Dinner**

At the Prep 2015 parent welcome dinner, I shared the belief, “*It takes a community to raise a child*”. The outstanding service of St Martin’s school community was evident through the donations of delicious meals, preparation and setting up of the GECCO, serving of meals, cleaning and packing up afterwards.

Special thanks to the Year 6 children who volunteered their time to wait on tables:

Alicia, Anastasia, Bianca, Bonnie, Hannah, Isabella, Sophie, Ben, Matteus, Nicholas and Oliver.

These Year 6 children looked resplendent in their school uniforms and demonstrated impeccable manners and great social interactions with the 2015 prep parents.

As a community we have every reason to be proud of all the big and little things that happen to make St Martin’s school the best place for the children in our care.

Another action that demonstrated community characteristics was when Brendan, father of Riley (1GC) and Molly (Prep 2015) noticed an excessive amount of water draining into the storm water drain near the sand pit. Brendan and a group of dads had moved outside for a chat and heard the water. Armed with a torch Brendan investigated the school meter and was back again early Saturday morning to follow up. The water was from concrete works for the new units in Silk St, concrete workers had been working late on Friday night. Brendan gave his personal time to make sure that the school was not sending money down the drain.

This email from a new parent shows how much it was noticed and appreciated:

*To Patricia, staff, parents and students,*

*I would like to applaud all involved in putting together the prep parent dinner. From the decor, to the delicious food; both my husband and I walked away very excited about our little girl starting her school journey at St Martin’s.*

*The Year 6s were well mannered and very mature. I could not believe the array of food and the effort families went to. I am a teacher and I have never seen such a warm welcome in a school.*

*Congratulations on a very successful night, I look forward to being a part of such a wonderful community.*
We remember and we celebrate

November is set aside by the Church as the month to celebrate and remember those who have died. May we take time to reflect on the ways that our family and friends have shown Christian works and deeds through their daily actions.

November 11th is the Feast of St Martin of Tours and is also Remembrance Day.

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

Monday morning coffee

On Monday morning the Parents and Friends Association is providing morning coffee. It is one of the many ways that the PFA take actions to build the social capital of our school community. On Tuesday, Gelati day has been organised by a group of parents, thank you Christine and Vanessa, and the Lapathon and sausage sizzle planned for Friday have been organised by Penny, a PFA committee member.

The AGM of the PFA is being held on Tuesday 18th November, please consider attending this meeting to show support for their efforts to support social activities and fundraising. Any donations to the school from the PFA have gone into building up the laptop resources in the school. This year’s donations are being used to install an industrial dishwasher in the kitchen/canteen of the GECCO.

Special thanks to all of the families who have supported PFA initiatives this year. Good luck with the school fee raffle.

Thanks to all the parents and teachers for supporting the tabloid sports, lapathon and sausage sizzle; thank you Mr Witchell for coordinating the tabloid sports. It will be a fun way for the children to celebrate the Feast of St Martin and to demonstrate their PE skills to the parents who are able to come and watch these sessions as part of the actions for open classrooms.

May we all take a minute to think of our actions in light of those of St Martin of Tours. He cut his cloak in half to give to a beggar. What do we share to make life easier for others?

Regards

Trish Stewart
Principal