Dear Families,

Last week the school was buzzing with excitement when word was received that two MPs were set to visit our school and make a special announcement. The whole school gathered on top yard for an assembly to meet James Merlino (Deputy Opposition, ALP Leader and Shadow Minister for Education) and Anthony Carbines (ALP State Member for Ivanhoe).

The student captains greeted the Ministers and led them on a tour through the Junior Building. They also pointed out to Mr James Merlino and Mr Anthony Carbines the myriad of reasons why money was needed to refurbish the junior school. The captains had prepared introductions about each of the politicians based on information gleaned from websites.

There were smiles, cheers and looks of disbelief as the message sunk in. Yes, St Martin’s has been promised half the costs for the major restoration works required for the junior school if their Political Party is elected to Government. Scope for these works include nine classrooms and an art room.

How timely for Yvonne, artist in residence, to be on hand with her trolley and plastic sheets on tables in classrooms to explain the benefits of an art room for ALL the students.

Talent is a gift that brings with it an obligation to serve the world, and not ourselves, for it is not of our making.

---Jose Marti

How blessed is the St Martin’s school community to have so many talented parents prepared to volunteer their time.

The recent Lapathon/sausage sizzle/snow cone making all showed the tremendous work of so many wonderful parents who came in numbers to supervise, encourage, cook, serve and clean up afterwards. In spite of the extra warm weather, spirits were high and the students felt the joy of making this day special in honour of St Martin of Tours, Patron Saint of the Parish.

PFA awarded special prizes were given to

**Prep - Grade 2:**
(4 children raised $60)

Amelia 2B
Luka 1GC
Jack PD
Samuel PT

**Grade 3 - 6:**

Sarah 4HD
And each student in 1GC for being the class to raise the most money.

**Leading Languages Project**
This week students, staff and parents have all been asked to complete a survey to determine the school climate in relation to second language learning at St Martin’s school.

I strongly encourage every parent to take a few minutes to log onto the link below to complete the survey. Data from these surveys will determine future actions in relation to language learning at St Martin’s school.

https://docs.google.com/a/smrosanna.catholic.edu.au/forms/d/1i3oh-B2mhQntZW_JzOITkNELZ-ohnJhp3qiYdZHU3LY/viewform?usp=send_form

**Vegie Garden**
Catherine (Matthew’s 6Z and Jessica’s 3M) mother is stepping down from her voluntary position as co-ordinator of the school vegie garden. If you are able to take on this role please advise Karen Crimmins, Student Wellbeing Leader.

On behalf of the school community we extend gratitude to Catherine for her energy and commitment, through all kinds of weather conditions, to lead the student gardening team. Thanks to Catherine the students have enjoyed tomatoes, strawberries, potatoes, spinach and broccoli.

**Parent Advisory Council**
Tomorrow night is the final PAC meeting for 2014. This year the PAC spent much time liaising with the school to facilitate the parent forum on Homework.

Results from the survey will be analysed at the meeting. Follow up suggestions will be presented to the teachers for consideration for the school homework policy.

Mr Vaughan Cleary, parent on the PAC is facilitating a parent / child study skills program for **all Year 6 students** on Wednesday 26th November at 7pm in the GECCO. This study skills session was a recommendation made by Vaughan when the changed homework initiatives were initially presented to parents.

**School Concert**
The countdown begins to the night of nights!

3 weeks to go.

Make sure you have purchased your tickets. School students do not require a ticket as they will be supervised by teachers during the concert.
Parish Annual General Meeting
All parents are invited to the Parish AGM on Sunday 30th November at 11:15am in the GECCO. This is an opportunity to hear about the future plans and vision for your Parish.

New Prep-5 Sports Top
The new sport top is available for purchase from both uniform suppliers.

The new top becomes part of the school uniform from the start of the 2015 school year. There is a 3 year change over period from the current red top to the new red and dark blue one.

PFA
Many thanks to all of the mums who came to the AGM of the PFA last night. It was the best attendance for ten years. 2014 was a fantastic year with great social and fundraising events.

Last night the PFA announced that $10,000 will be donated to install an industrial dishwasher in the GECCO and $10,000 towards iPads for Year 1 classrooms.

On behalf of the school community, appreciation is given by all the parents for the PFA initiatives. In particular, thanks is extended to Pauline K (Secretary) and Sarah G (PAC representative) who have been long standing members of the PFA committee and are not continuing in their roles for 2015. The thoughtful speech made by Michelle H, President of the PFA for 2014 and 2015, is attached to the newsletter.

We have many wonderful reasons to be proud of the St Martin’s school community.

Car Parking at Rosanna Views Nursing Home
This morning the school was advised that parents from St Martin’s had parked in the Rosanna Views car park.

The car park at Rosanna Views is provided for their employees, medical staff and visitors. Please respect their rights to utilise their car park.

Enjoy this glorious weather and the gift of each day.

Regards Trish Stewart Principal