Dear Families

“And so this is Christmas and what have we done, another year older, ”

As the song goes, another year over and what an amazing year at St Martin’s school; not sure how, but the school community moves from strength to strength with all aspects of education.

Thank you to all members of the school community who have embraced the school motto, Non Recuso Laborem, embracing life’s challenges, during the 2014 school year.

The achievements of an organisation are the results of the combined effort of each individual. Vince Lombardi.

Special thank you to all the parent members of the school community who have supported, assisted, volunteered and walked alongside the school to do what’s best for the children. You are the beacon of light that makes our community renowned. You give witness to the belief that it takes a community to raise a child. You are people of hope, respect and commitment. You look for opportunities to support and acknowledge the efforts of others. You know that each action can make a difference.

Sincere thanks and congratulations to the best school staff in the world for leading, guiding and challenging each child to reach their potential.

School Concert
Last week at the school concert we saw the community in action:

Students gave their best to make the concert entertaining for the audience. They sang, danced, kept time to rhythm and beat and helped with the design stage when ideas were being considered.

Teachers worked collaboratively to engage students in performances that showcased the learning for 2014.

Members of the PFA committee rolled up their sleeves and took over the management of the car parking. They arrived early and graciously gave their time to assist guests with car parking options. On behalf of the community thanks are extended to those parents who gave personal time to assist others.
Parents also took up the challenge with costume design. Some classes needed minimal assistance while others needed grand designs. Thank you to the parents who gave their time to do costume fit out so every child could play their part.

As Santa said on Thursday night those children have been working hard at St Martin’s school and all deserve a present.

The actions to show the meaning of Christmas:
Last week I had the privilege of escorting the choir to spread Christmas cheer at the Rosanna Views Nursing home. Although numbers were small, the good will of the Year 3 and 4 girls, Alessia, Celeste, Mackinlie, Colette and Victoria, was delightful to witness. They smiled, talked, sang, danced and joined Fr Michael in celebrating a Mass and Anointing of the Sick. The smiles on the faces on the residents said it all. On the walk back to school I told the girls that they had given the best Christmas present because they shared themselves.

On another occasion, I witnessed a family of four boys, Ben, Daniel, Joseph and Louis, walking the street to hand deliver student created Christmas cards. I’m sure the recipients enjoy the Christmas good will and cheer.

PFA Support
This year PFA committee members have worked hard with fundraising and in building social capital.

The school has been presented with a cheque for an amazing amount of $20 000.

This money will be used for Ipads in Year 1 ($10 000), Industrial Dishwasher in kitchen of GECCO ($8 000) and Music Stands ($2 000).

Huge thanks to all members of the PFA for your efforts to support the school and to all the parents who supported PFA initiatives.

"Thank you" from the St Vincent de Paul Conference, Macleod/Rosanna

A huge "Thank you" to all from the St Martin’s School community who so generously donated to the Christmas Hamper appeal for our Macleod/Rosanna conference. Thanks to your kindness, we have been able to make up twelve hampers and these will be distributed to people we visit in the local community. These are families who are really struggling and who would not be able to have that "special something" to enjoy on Christmas Day. Thanks to you, they will now be able to look forward to a real celebration. Your school demonstrates its appreciation of the true meaning of Christmas by offering these generous gifts. Thank you and may God Bless you all at this Christmas time.
Hi everyone,
I know this was a while ago, but I would just like to say a big thank you for giving your child money to spend at the Year 6 fundraising stalls. Some of the stalls were baked goods, PlayStation 4, guessing games, a sponge throwing competition and a can throwing competition.
For all those wondering, we made just over $2,500, and the money went to different charities, such as the Cancer Council and the Red Cross Foundation. I appreciate the effort gone into creating the stalls, and also to the children who bought off the stalls. Each person spent their money wisely, which I was very impressed about. I know some parents are out there thinking, “Where’d all that fundraising money go to and how much did they raise?” and I hope I’ve answered your questions. I can’t thank everyone enough!
Also I would love to give a massive thank you to the Year 6’s who put their time and effort into their stalls. They did a brilliant job! Hopefully everyone thought the stalls went smoothly and hopefully the school can do it again next year!
I was very proud to be the school’s Social Justice Captain this year, and I will miss every one. I wish everyone luck for the future.

Matteus 6Z - Social Justice Captain

Families Leaving

Goodbye and thank you to the families who are leaving St Martin’s school community.

Baron Gonzaga, Bishop, Boscariol, Del Brocco, Fox, Harrison and Tax.

New Families in 2015

Welcome back to the Baker family and to the new families joining St Martin’s next year.

Dimopoulos, Lightfoot, Mayger, Milanovic, Mohrwinkel, O’Connor, Spencer and Sutton.

Captains for 2015

Congratulations to the following students on their leadership roles in 2015.

School Captains: Mattise L and Lachlan O
Vice Captains: Viduni I and Levi N
House Captains:
McAuley: Riley P
Mercy: Olivia M
Tours: Angus F
Xavier: Oscar B
Arrangements for Start of 2015 School Year

Wednesday, 28\textsuperscript{th} January: Staff PD (pupil free)

Thursday, 29\textsuperscript{th} January: Staff PD (pupil free)

Friday, 30\textsuperscript{th} January: Years 1-6 commence the school year.

Monday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} February: Preps commence school. 8.55am-1pm all week. No school assembly today so the Preps can have a smooth start to school.

Thursday, 5\textsuperscript{th} February: Beginning of Year Whole School Mass 9.15am

In the words of Archbishop Denis Hart

As the year draws to a close we give thanks for all its challenges and its blessings. We give thanks for all we have been able to achieve, through the grace of God, and for all those who have touched and enriched our lives.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. Take a few minutes to reflect on your child/children’s year of learning and be thankful. I’m sure at your Christmas Mass you will pray for peace in our world and for open mindedness to the needs of the poor, the hungry, the marginalised, the lonely and the sad people in our world.

May you find Jesus’ love peace and joy in your everyday actions.

Happy and Holy Christmas, with appreciation for our wonderful 2014 school year.

Trish Stewart, privileged Principal