Dear Families,

Recently I read a reflection from Pope Francis calling us to use the talents entrusted to us for the benefit of others.

“God calls us to make the wealth He has entrusted to us grow, not to lock it in a safe....... Jesus wants us to use His grace for the benefit of others and that’s how it grows.... And what have we done? Who have we infected with our faith? How many people have we encouraged with our hope? How much love have we shared with our neighbour? “

Entering into the season of Lent, a time of reflection, a time to change our hearts, it is timely to remind ourselves how our choices affect others. Parents have a myriad of opportunities to show by example the ways love, hope and joy can be shared and lived in our everyday actions.

So many times I am reminded of the strong community culture at St Martin’s school that shows care, concern and spontaneity to assist in times of need. Our school community has embraced our school motto, “Non Recuso Laborem” not refusing the task. For example, parent reps organised pizza in the GECCO for Prep families following the Prep Family Welcome Mass on Saturday night. Other recent examples include the team of parents who acted and are continuing to act as parent liaison for new school families and the parents who rallied to organise, set up, cook and clean up for the Shrove Tuesday picnic. Perhaps the wonderful parent example has inspired our Year 6 students in leadership. On Saturday night, Year 6 students came proudly dressed in their school uniform to offer support to their Prep buddies. On Friday, four Year 5 students accompanied Fr Michael and Sr Nhung to Rosanna Views Nursing Home, Issy, Lauren, Molly and Victoria showed care and respect for the elderly residents. Their act of service made a difference to others. St Martin’s is blessed to have all members of the community living our school motto.

School Photos
Summer uniform for school photos:

- Girls - Dress, white socks covering the ankle and black leather school shoes; any hair accessories in school colours.
- Boys - School embroidered shirt, grey shorts, grey socks covering the ankle, black leather school shoes; socks may be plain grey or grey with school colours.

2 minute drop off/collection point in Silk St
Parents are reminded that the 2 minute drop off is not a parking space. There is not enough time for parents to leave their car and walk their child to the school gate.

Traffic officers often visit Silk St and issue fines for non-conforming motorists.
Staff PD
Recent staff professional development has included Emergency Management Training and Analysing Data to focus on Explicit Teaching for Growth.

Homework
Refer to the handout distributed at Open Classroom twilight session by your child’s classroom teacher/s.

All families are reminded of the need to foster, support and create opportunities for children to read EVERY day. Basic number facts are also important skills that need to be practised at home.

Project Compassion: Caritas.

Food for life

*In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children.*
– Pope Francis

There’s enough food produced to feed everyone in the world. Yet every day, too many people around the world go hungry. Pope Francis has called this scandalous.

“Food for Life” is the focus for this year’s Project Compassion. Throughout Lent, we invite you to learn more about food issues and how your support can help the world’s poorest people create a better future with healthier, more reliable food sources.

The official policy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne is that fundraising for appeals be directed solely through Caritas.

Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon
15 students from St Martin of Tours School have registered to take part in the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon in Melbourne on the 8th of March 2015. This makes our school eligible to enter the draw to win some great prizes. There is one major school prize of $5,000 cash towards a healthy initiative plus one of 13 trampolines from Springfree Trampoline valued at over $1,200 each.
Yr 6 Camp

Thank you to the parents for entrusting your children to the care of school teachers during their three day outdoor education camp last week. As a grandparent, I would be thrilled if my grandchildren were given half the amount of care, encouragement and support that the teachers gave to the Year 6 children. St Martin’s is blessed to have a wonderful team of teachers ready to embrace life’s challenges of sleeping on vinyl bunk beds, surviving on little sleep and providing 24 hour care to the students.

It is so easy to be proud to be part of this outstanding school community.

Regards  Trish Stewart  Proud Principal