Dear Families

This week our precious Prep students have commenced full school days. Congratulations and thank you to the many parents who are supporting their child’s social and emotional development by encouraging their independence. It is the role of parents to “let go and let God”. Parents are asked to assist all children by standing well back away from Prep dots and from the school entrance doors. It has been difficult for Year 1 and 2 classes to enter the building each morning because parents have blocked the entrance. The child’s entrance to school each morning is critical to their overall attitude and ability to focus on school tasks.

Homework at St Martin’s

A major project of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) was the investigation and recommendation of suitable holiday protocols for students at St Martin’s. The staff and parents made recommendations based on Research. This Research was presented at an open Forum for parents, online and hard copy formats.

In the Learning and Teaching section of this Newsletter there is a link to an article discovered by a Year 5 student when exploring information for News and Views. This article is clear, precise and provides simple explanations that are supported by St Martin’s teachers.

In short, even though teachers set homework, it is not compulsory. Reading is a DAILY expectation for EVERY child at St Martin’s. Teachers communicate suitable home practice tasks to support the child to gain skill development. Parents need to refer to the handout given to each family during the open school on Tuesday, 10th of February 2015.

Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon

Congratulations to our super TRY squad for your participation on Sunday. Thanks to the parents for supporting the children with their extra-curricula activities.

Swimathon Thank You

Dear Trish and St Martin’s Community

Thank you so much for your support and to the St Martin’s Community. A special mention to the kids who helped Lauren and Caleb sell raffle tickets in their time at first and second break especially Isabel and Emma.

The winners of the raffle were
1st Prize Rachael 4W (St Martin’s)
2nd Prize Lara (Loyola student)
3rd Prize Ryan H 2BC (St Martin’s)

We really appreciate the support of the school. In total the kids raised $425 towards people with disabilities learning to swim and the YMCA across Australia raised $210,000 to support more than 1,600 kids and adults with disabilities to enjoy the water and learn to swim safely.
People with disabilities often require specially qualified swimming instructors or accessible facilities. But more often than not, there are not enough qualified swimming instructors or the equipment available to easily access the water.

Thanks again for your help and support.

Regards, Bruggeman Family

Social Justice: Year 6 Fundraising Week 2014

Check out this link http://www.lotuschild.org/ to see where one of the fundraising groups sent their money; wonderful global social justice initiative.

Northern Parent Support

About our service

Our Northern Parent Support service can assist families who have a child who is living with a disability, development delay or has additional needs by providing information about services, and by offering practical assistance and advocacy. The program actively supports the growth and development of parent support groups across the northern suburbs and training in volunteer support work.

Is this support for me?

We can support you if:

- you are a parent of a child (aged up to 18 years) with a disability
- you are a parent of a child (aged up to 18 years) with additional needs.

How can this support assist me?

We can relieve some of the stress in your life by:

- providing information about services which could assist you and your family
- providing confidential assistance with problem solving
- offering advocacy in meeting with schools or other institutions
- providing practical assistance
- helping you make contact with other parents who have a child in a similar situation for mutual support.

We can help you:

- advocate for your child's needs at school
- learn about new services and ideas to support you or your child
• refer you to a support group or help you set one up. Support Groups are a useful 
way to connect with other parents for shared information and support
• provide you with training and support to volunteer as a support group facilitator or 
assistant
• develop your independence and increase your enjoyment of life.

What geographical areas do we cover?

You can connect with us if you have a child with developmental delay, disability or other 
additional needs and you live in the northern metropolitan region, in the municipalities of 
Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Moreland, Hume, Whittlesea or Nillumbik.

How can I access this support?

You do not need a referral to access our service. Please call our Intake Team on 03 9487 
9238, email dpcsintake@mcm.org.au or send us an enquiry by filling in the form below.

Looking forward to seeing all families represented at Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 
next week.

Regards

Trish Stewart                                  Principal