Dear Families,

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who are celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation tonight/tomorrow night.

It is an exciting and reflective time for them and for the school community. They are choosing to confirm the promises that were made about their faith commitment when they were Baptised/Christened.

During their time at St Martin’s school, they have been taught about the believing, serving and celebrating aspects of the Catholic Church. Their learning this Term has linked to heroes, people who chose goodness over wrong. They have explained how their chosen Saint made choices for the good in our world and have reflected on the everyday actions of others to show respect, care and inclusion for the needy.

This important step in their Faith journey reminds us all of the many ways the Spirit of Jesus, our loving God, is present in us and in others who choose to bear witness to goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, peacefulness, self-control, patience, joy and love.

May the Spirit’s gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Courage, Right Judgement, Wonder and Awe, Knowledge and Reverence shine, in our Year 6 students, as beacons for others and be awakened in each of us.

Bishop Terry Curtin spent time with the students last week. He unpacked the meaning of the Baptismal Promises by linking evil to unsafe cyber activities and bullying. He re-contextualised these promises to everyday situations and encouraged the Year 6 students to be active in their faith and to stand up for their beliefs. Bishop Terry also commented on the Year 6 students’ knowledge, respect and welcoming attitude displayed to him.

All members of our school community are proud of the way that each of our Year 6 students chooses to live our school motto of “not refusing the task and embrace life’s challenges.”

**Extra Curricula Activities**

During this short Term, commitment to providing a rich and diverse learning environment has been promoted through:

- **Year 6 camp**, Year 6 students had three jam packed days of fun, friendship and activities to overcome personal challenges. Their Outdoor Ed camp enabled them to develop self-confidence, personal management, empathy and resilience.
• **School Concert Band**, 47 students from Year 3-6 are involved in learning Woodwind or Brass instruments and join in Band rehearsal each Wednesday at 8am.

• **Swimming**, 40 students participated in swimming trials at Northcote pool after school in February. From the school trials, a Squad was chosen to represent the school at Zone and Regional swim meets. **Seven** super-fish swimmers from St Martin’s will be competing at State Squad level in April.

• **Fire Carriers**, four Year 5 students represented our school at the annual Fire Carriers Day where 21 Catholic primary schools from the North East Zone of Catholic Education in Melbourne came together to learn and celebrate the gift of our Aboriginal forefathers.

• **Rosanna Views Nursing Home**, four Year 5 students gave their services to supporting the residents connected to the Faith tradition of Ash Wednesday and Lent.

• **St Patrick’s Day Mass**, the Fire Carriers Team represented St Martin’s at the Cathedral for a Mass where all Catholic schools in Melbourne are represented for this great show of pride in our system.

• **Class Masses**, weekend participation in Sacramental Commitment and Preparation Masses.

• **Chess Club**, 28 children will be representing the school at a tournament against other schools in Kangaroo Ground tomorrow.

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**Copied from email - Congratulations to TRYathletes from St Martin of Tours School (Rosanna)**

14 students from St Martin of Tours School (Rosanna) took part in the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at Catani Gardens, St. Kilda on the 8th of March 2015.

These TRYathletes from St Martin of Tours School (Rosanna) are:

- Leah
- Dane
- Lucas
- Brodie
- Hayley
- Joshua
- Annabel
- Annabel
- Lily
School Chaplain/Counsellor
The Victorian State Government Department of Education and Training has agreed to participate in the Commonwealth Government’s National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP). The aim of the NSCP is to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies. St Martin’s School Chaplain, Bev, is being funded by the Victorian State Government.

Homework in Primary schools
Included in this Newsletter is a link to assist you with your expectations re homework in the primary school.

All families are reminded of the need to keep up the daily practice of Reading and Number Facts over the school holidays.

Holy Week liturgy for Students
Parents are invited to join the school community on Friday 27th March at 10:30am in the Church for the whole school Holy Week Reflection.

Have a wonderful Easter celebration with your precious child/children. Every day brings you the opportunity of seeing the Easter hope alive in their eyes.

Thanks for all of your many ways you have given time and talent during First Term to make St Martin’s school a thriving learning community. The bar has been set high for a FABULOUS year.

Regards Trish Stewart Principal