Dear Families,

This week is National Reconciliation Week, a time for our country to remember the past and learn from it in relation to the treatment of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who were the first caretakers of our wonderful country.

Every person is a gift from God, it’s important that as adults we help the children to see why and how Reconciliation happened.

**Homework / Home Practice Tasks**

Last week the school was contacted by the media team at Catholic Education Office, regarding our homework policy. An article is being written about Homework and the author had heard about the wonderful work done by Vaughan to research and present findings on this topic.

This has prompted me to remind all parents of the focus the school places on parent partnership to support the children with their learning.

In the interview, I shared some of the many ways that parents at St Martin’s support their child’s learning by ensuring time is spent on home practice tasks. These tasks include reading, discussion about the text after reading, recall basic number facts including tables, writing lists, using measurement in cooking, choosing tasks from the teacher’s on-line space, visiting libraries, Aquariums, Museums, writing cards, preparing for presentations, discussing news and events, going for bike rides, family board games etc.

Interesting to hear that the author said at his children’s school, students have a similar practice on non-compulsory homework and that their **Continuation of Learning** operates under the same structure and expectations as ours. As parents, time is set in their
home for each of their three primary school children to complete a 30 min activity to reinforce their learning. Similarly, reading is a daily activity in their home.

I wonder what expectations and culture you have set up in your home to support your child with their learning. Parents who are happy to share their wisdom are welcome to email details so they can be included in next newsletter.

Waste time
A recent article in Kairos, vol 26 issue 6, Matthew Macdonald shared insights into “wasting time”.

Saying no to things, for the sake of things, sometimes even good things, for the sake of better things......... maybe best of all, indulge in the deliciously seditious act of wasting time with your children or your spouse.

Student Principal for a Day
Next week our student captains will be taking on the roles as school leaders as Principal and Deputy Principal. They are organising their day around meetings and classroom visits, as well as planning a whole school activity. Opportunity for student voice helps us to plan activities that engage students in their learning.

Life Education
It is a Government requirement that all schools cover Drug Education in the curriculum. To support this five week block of learning about Drug Ed, we have engaged the Life Ed Van. Each class will have a visit to the Life Ed Van, (Prep-Yr 2) 1 hour session and (Yr 3-6) 1.5 hours session. Costs for this incursion are being met by Curriculum Levy fees. Aspects covered in primary school include safe storage and use
of medicines and prescribed medication, as well as the need to keep our minds and bodies healthy by choosing safe life choices. Ask your child about their visit and interaction with teaching staff involved with Life Ed Van. Refer to Student Wellbeing section in newsletter to view topics covered at each grade level.

There is a parent session by Life Ed teachers on Friday 29th May at 2:40pm in the Italian room, enter via school office. Hopefully lots of parents will avail themselves of this education about this important topic.

**Enhancing Catholic Identity Survey**
Good news we only need 31 more parents to complete this survey. Log in: [http://schoolidentity.net](http://schoolidentity.net)
Password: Ghj654

One parent has suggested that parents complete this survey when/after assisting in classrooms. The other suggestion is for every parent representative to complete the survey. Other ideas to engage parents with the survey are welcome.

**Extra curricular activities**
Thank you to Mr Witchell for supervising early morning cross country training over the past weeks. It has been a positive way for students to start the day.

Currently, before school skipping club is being offered Wednesday at 8am thanks to Miss Valvo and Miss Garcia.

Chess club is offered each Tuesday lunchtime and is looking to expand to include Friday 8am sessions.
Thank you to all those who have made a contribution to Vinnies. Contributions will continue over the next weeks.

While we keep warm and nourished, may we model social justice commitment to our children by sending warm clothing items and non-perishable food items, eg tins of soup to fill the tent at the back of the church. The long weekend on the horizon is perfect time to waste time with your children.

Regards

Trish Stewart

Principal