Dear Families,

It’s in the everyday actions that we show our culture. Wearing of school uniform instils a sense of belonging and pride, showing respect to others shows a living understanding of the Gospels, engaging in school activities shows commitment to community and making time to complete home practice tasks shows openness to learning.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been moving from class to class reading and commenting on students’ learning/reflective journals. Like a bowl of minestrone soup, each child shows different levels of knowledge, understanding and application of skills. In a Year 3 class, the students were investigating the Scripture Parable, “The Good Shepherd”. They were asked to make connections to explain their understanding. One boy wrote, “I think the Good Shepherd story tells us that everyone is worthwhile, that we need to show respect for everyone.” This statement showed me the hope and goodness of our Catholic Identity permeating the school’s culture. We should all take a minute to be proud that we are part of the wonderful St Martin of Tours school community.

**Parent Forum, eLearning**

Each family is asked to be represented at the eLearning Forum tomorrow, Thursday 27th August at 7pm in the GECCO.

These parent forums are an initiative of the Parent Advisory Council, PAC. For the past four years, the PAC has chosen topics of interest and necessity to the parents. They are ways of knowing and being involved and contributing ideas for future vision. Thanks to Ms Williams, eLearning Leader for facilitating this session.

**Book Week**

Thanks to our creative and passionate Teacher-Librarian, Miss Yeomans for keeping reading at the forefront of our learning and activity. There is research showing a correlation between children’s success with reading and their academic achievement. Thanks to the parents who assisted their child with their dress up for Book Week and to those who have timetabled attendance at the school night reading block into their family activities. There is a Year 5 student who has given up her birthday dinner in a restaurant to attend this school extra-curricula activity.

**School Athletics**

Thanks to Mr Witchell and teachers for doubling up on lessons and supervision and for missing recess break to assist with sprint trials for the interschool athletic championship.

**Music Concert**

Thanks to Miss West for giving her personal time to support students to do a musical performance. All families are invited to this concert on Thursday, 3rd September at 6:30pm. Individual performances, small group performances and both junior and senior bands will be performing. Thanks also to the parents on the band committee for your ongoing commitment and efforts to work collaboratively with external music contract teachers to provide this wonderful opportunity of
learning Brass and Woodwind instruments from expert teachers. Thanks to Carol for her flexibility and desire to support each child at their level with learning to play the piano. It is an evening to showcase music at St Martin’s school; an evening to celebrate the fruits of the efforts of many to create this rich learning experience.

**Sunsmart**
1st September, 5 things to remember............. And one of these things is hats at school.

**Class Parent Dinners**
Thank you to the Year 4 families and the Year 1 mums who gave their special Friday night time to build community. There was wonderful energy both in the dining section and in the kitchen. Whether chatting at the table or in the kitchen, it was a time to share stories and life experiences. The school community is grateful to the teachers who take time from their personal lives to mix in a friendly way and build supportive relationships by attending and mingling at the class Friday night dinners.

**Father’s Day**
Congratulations and thank you to all the dads at St Martin’s School. You are fabulous role models to your children and you are generous in your support to build school social network and offer assistance with intellectual and physical activities from Reading to Sport to Working Bees to before and after school drop off and pick up etc. etc. etc.

Thank you for all the ways you live your commitment to St Martin’s school and for creating a culture of acceptance, respect and value in each person. No one ingredient is more special than others in the pot of minestrone soup, together each ingredient brings a unique delicious flavour.

Thank you for being part of our special minestrone soup flavour at St Martins’ school. No wonder our reputation is so highly acclaimed.

**Looking forward to a full house of parents attending the Open Parent Forum tomorrow night, 7pm in the GECCO. Please make an effort to see and hear what’s happening with eLearning and the plans for the future.**

The funeral Mass for Mrs Scully, former teacher at St Martin’s was celebrated on Friday in Yeppoon. A memorial celebration will be conducted at St Martin’s at a time suitable to the family. Details will be given when available. Miss Yeomans has dedicated our “Book Week” this year to Colleen.

**Regards**

Trish Stewart
Privileged Principal