Dear Families,

Next week marks the end of Term 3; students break up at 1pm on Friday. Year 5 students return from camp around midday and all students have the option of attending the disco that Clare, Annabel (5A), Lily (3JC) and Charlie’s (1GC) mum and her team have organised for the students.

This Friday is looking to be fabulous weather for the annual footy day. We are grateful to Vaughan, Patrick (4G) and Charlie’s (2MV) dad for organising Marcellin College students to assist with activities and to our Mr Witchell for co-ordinating this whole school event that raises the profile of the fun in learning. Special thanks to all the staff for supporting whole school days to show the students that by their actions they work as a team to promote the strong community culture that is evident at St Martin’s School.

Emergency Management
As part of the school’s on-going registration, it is a requirement that Emergency Management plans are practised so that they are known by staff and students in case an incident occurs. St Martin’s school uses Dynamiq Trusted Emergency Management to supervise the school requirements. Emergency Plans are relevant to our school needs.

Each year staff undergoes training and at least once a term the school is required to practise a different emergency procedure. The details of these practices are not shared with the staff and students prior to the practice. This term the focus was on an intruder on the school grounds. Students and staff were informed over the loud speaker of their need to evacuate the school yard.

Practice drills are evaluated for performance after the session. In some of the senior classes, students make suggestions for improvement and these details are shared with the staff.

Almost daily the school receives notification via email of emergency incidents occurring in nearby schools. These incidents include intruders, strangers following students to school or taking photos or offering a lift, extreme weather conditions and hazardous chemical leaks. It is the school’s duty of care to prepare the students for an emergency incident. We pray that our emergency incidents will not be grounded in real life events but contained to practice sessions.

Refugees and Migrants
Last week was the celebration of the 101st National Day for Migrants and Refugees. As a Nation we are built on the strengths and courage of so many people who have travelled here from far-away lands and have claimed Australia as their home. They have shared their culture, customs, gardening and magnificent foods with us. Melbourne is renowned for its restaurants offering a myriad of taste sensations.

In the annual message by the Pope we are reminded that “Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognised in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them, he calls us to share our resources and occasionally to give up something of our acquired riches.”

Let us be aware that:
51.3 million people are displaced globally

3 million refugees have been produced by the Syrian war

6.5 million, or 1/3, of Syrian people are displaced

Half of these refugees are children.

We make our prayer:

   Lord, no one is a stranger to you

   And no one is ever far from your loving care.

   In your kindness, watch over refugees and asylum seekers.

   Bring them safely to the place where they long to be.

   And help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

   Amen.

Year 5 Camp
Huge thanks to the staff for taking on the 24 hour supervision of Year 5 students. The purpose of Year 5 camp is to extend the learning experience beyond the classroom. Curriculum content is not the only aspect covered at their Goldfields experience at Sovereign Hill, a high profile is given to Student Wellbeing. Students develop self-organisation and self-management skills, as well as the opportunity of being respectful and showing empathy and co-operation when working in a group and sleeping in their bunk room. They are faced with situations that require them to be resilient, optimistic and to slow down to appreciate the wonder and awe in the gifts of creation.

End of Term Disco
Students look forward to this school event where they have an opportunity to be creative and to mix socially with their peers. Parents are asked to remind their child/children of their need to be respectful and well-mannered in their behaviour.

Sunsmart
The following information is taken from Sunsmart:

“"A combination of sun protection measures are used whenever the UV levels reach three and above. Please check the sun protection times each day so you can be sure you are using sun protection when you need to be. The sun protection times are available as a free app, from sunsmart.com.au and the Bureau of Meteorology website.

During the sun protection times please remember to:
1. Slip on sun protective clothing
2. Slop on SPF 30 or higher sunscreen
3. Slap on a wide brimmed hat
4. Seek shade
5. Slide on some wrap-around sunglasses”

School Spring Music Concert
Last week many of our students showcased their musical ability by performing as a member of the choir, junior school concert band, senior school concert band and/or solo performances.

The School Bands have gone from strength to strength through the efforts of the parents on the Band Committee who coordinate teachers and performances. Special thanks to Patrick, Sarah, Kathy, Karina, Collum, Peter and Melissa for all your time given to ensure this extra curricula activity is available for all students from Year 3 to 6.

The school choir shone brightly in Miss West’s absence, they did her proud. The students took on roles of conducting to playing downloaded music backing tracks; well done to Celeste, Isabella and Noah.

The School Bands and the School Choir show student commitment to giving their personal time to practise.

During our special “Books light up our world” late night reading hour for students, I had the pleasure of sharing my favourite picture story book, “Today we have no plans”. The message in this story tells us to slow down and experience some down time as a family. I hope you get at least one day over the school holiday break to say to your children “today we have no plans”. Then the day can be filled discovering the joy of the little things; from baking muffins, to finding worms in the garden, to making buses from chairs, to a cubby made from a blanket, to washing the car, to reorganising a room, to making up a puppet play, to reading for an extra couple of hours etc. etc.

Enjoy!!! Students and teachers will commence Term 4 on Monday 5th October.

Regards
Trish Stewart
Principal