Dear Families

Driving home on Friday night after the Prep 2016 Parent Welcome Dinner, I reflected on Father Peter’s vision, more than 20 years ago, to build strong community spirit by introducing the concept of parent dinners. He saw these dinners as opportunities for parents to come together to share stories and build relationships. If we look at the actions of Jesus, we see that He used meals and hospitality to connect and show respect for the *sacred in each person*.

John Hatti, highly respected educational researcher, puts it simply, yet with implications for deliberate and purposeful reflections, when he says, "know thy impact”.

The impact of the actions of parents and Year 6 students to create a warm welcome to St Martin’s school ensured there was a positive first impression for the Prep 2016 families.

Special thanks to:

- Ourania, Friday Night Dinner Co-ordinator, for being our own special event coordinator. Ourania led the team to set up at 2pm on Friday, she arrived for serving duty at 6:30pm and finished off the night by being the last to leave.

- The team of Year 6 students who looked resplendent in their summer uniforms and showed respect, manners and service and quality characteristics that all the prep parents hope their child/children acquire.

- The top chef parents who prepared and donated delicious meals.

- The team of parents who served and cleaned up after the dinner.

As this was my last professional attendance at a Parent Friday Night Dinner, I thank you for the wealth of memories to warm my tomorrows. Thank you for your commitment to believe, serve, celebrate and trust in the process that has become a valuable tradition to build strong community at St Martin’s school. Through the stories shared across the tables, I have made connections and heard about great family values; Remo in the BIG ‘snapper’ competition, gaining energy from Liliana’s scrumptious arancini balls, Nigel’s conference presentation and his Doctoral studies, Rebecca and Warren’s long drives to family in the Western and Northern districts of Victoria etc etc.

**Parent Advisory Council**

On behalf of the school community, we publicly thank the following members who are finishing their membership on the PAC:

Antonella, (Chairperson), Clare (Uniforms), Irene (Secretary), Vaughan (Educational Leadership for Parent Forums).

Anyone who is interested in joining the PAC for 2016 is asked to leave contact details at the school office.
Feedback about the students

Below is an extract from an email:

*Please acknowledge all the children that helped out at the Children’s Mass Sunday 25th Oct. All the children were well behaved in Mass and read beautifully or brought gifts to the altar with composure. I had helpers from Prep to Year 6. This was the first Children’s Mass we have organised for ordinary time. Next year we hope to expand on the contribution the children make to a regular Sunday Mass.*

*Children’s Mass Volunteers: Isabelle, Jocelyn and Genevieve, Partia and Oliver, Connor and Luca, Adam, Dawson and Ellio, Faith and Kayla, Keira, Olivia and Adam, Celeste and Noah, William.*

*I also wanted to commend the 4 boys who competed in the chess tournament. They were well behaved and supported and encouraged each other throughout the day, particularly when the Kings and Queens were not falling our way. It was a pleasure to give up a day off to transport the boys and hang around with them all day.*

Chess Club

Congratulations to our team of Year 6 students, Aidan, Gayan, Oscar and William, who qualified to represent the school at the State Chess Tournament. The boys experienced personal success and gained a team placing of 8th.

Special thanks to Mr Zac for coordinating the chess team and to the parents who assisted with transport and supervision. Good luck to the P-3 chess players who will be competing, to gain a place for State playoffs, on Tuesday 17th November.

Whole School Photo

There are two large whole school photos on display in the Principal’s office. One photo was taken in 1958 to show the first intake of students and the other was taken in 2008. Children, parents and staff enjoy spotting themselves, their friends and other members of the school community. Tomorrow, Thursday, we will gather for another whole school photo to map the journey of students enrolled at St Martin’s school.

Parents are asked to ensure their child wears school summer uniform. Any classes that have PE/sport lessons on Thursday need to bring their runners in their school bag.

Microscopes

Thanks to Michael, Erin (SO’s) dad for the donation of two microscopes for school use.

Music Count Us In

Last week the whole school gathered in the GECCO to join schools across Australia to sing “GOLD”. Thank you Miss West for teaching the whole school this song. It was wonderful to see everyone joining in and enjoying the opportunity to connect globally through music.
Fete
It’s only 10 days til our big Parish/School fete. The committee has been meeting weekly to organize this great event. Thank you for all the support you have given so far to set up stalls. Hopefully every family will find at least an hour to come and support the fete between 3pm and 8pm on Friday 13th November. Don’t forget to make your way to the fruit and veg stall. Bring your shopping trolleys or muscles to carry home the premium quality produce.

Hope everyone is recharged ready to enjoy the rest of Term 4 together. Bring on more beautiful Spring weather, especially for Fete day on Friday 13th.

Regards Trish Stewart Principal