Welcome back!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year, I hope that we all begin it feeling refreshed and ready to take on the many challenges of the year.

For me it is a new beginning and I feel extremely privileged and excited to be joining such a vibrant learning community. I very much look forward to getting to know all our families during the course of this year.

Each new school year is always exciting for all of us. It provides us with new opportunities for friendships, for setting goals, for letting go of past mistakes and for taking up new interests and challenges. As I visited each class I could feel the excitement beginning and it is my hope that this buzz will be continued throughout the year.

Our staff is looking forward to working with your child and you during the coming year. You can be assured that they will give their very best to make this a fulfilling year for every child at our school. We will be encouraging every parent to not only support the staff but also to be involved in their child’s education. I encourage all our community to be active participants in the education of our students. Education is very much a partnership between students, parents and teachers. The most important ingredient in any community is open, honest and regular communication.

May our journey together throughout the 2016 school year be full of fun, laughter and learning.

Please feel free at any time throughout the year to come up and have a chat should you have any concerns, my door is always open.

Building Update
I have already had the opportunity to be part of multiple meetings in relation to the redevelopment of the Prep – Year 2 building. It is apparent that significant planning has taken place over recent years. However, there are many matters that need to still be fine-tuned before the works can begin. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the project will start this year. As further information becomes available I will ensure that the parents are fully informed.

Getting Off On The Right Foot
Getting off to a good start also involves good planning. We have already scheduled some important dates for your diary which are listed in this newsletter.
Before School Supervision
Top Yard gates and the side gate in Dobson Ave are opened at 8:30am each morning. Top Yard is supervised from 8:30am each morning. All children remain on Top Yard until directed by a teacher. PLEASE NOTE: We ask that the students please do not play ball games or running activities before school. All children need to be on the school grounds by 8:50am when they will enter their classrooms. It is important for all children to be seated in their classroom ready for meditation at 8:55am (Tuesday to Friday); whole school assembly is held each Monday on Top Yard.

After School Pick Up
All children going home via Bottom Yard are to be collected by parents from Middle Yard near the BBQ area. Children will not be permitted to leave this area without a parent. Children walking home via Dobson Ave gates will continue to do so via the path past Junior Adventure. Parents are reminded that Adventure playgrounds are unsupervised by teachers and are out of bounds for students before and after school. Preps are collected after school from their dots. Parents are asked to keep this area clear to alleviate any anxiety.

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews Tuesday, 1st March—Students Years 1-6. Whole school dismissed at 1pm.
On Tuesday, 1st March interviews will be held for parents, students and teachers to meet to discuss students' progress. The focus of the March interview is to set goals for your child/children in line with their testing results. Children are encouraged to attend these interviews. Details on how to complete your online booking will be included in the school newsletters nearer to the dates.

Prep Parent Information Evening, 7pm Tuesday 2nd February
All prep parents are invited to an information session facilitated by the prep class teachers in the classrooms.

Open Classrooms for Year 1 to Year 6 Students, 3-5pm Tuesday 2nd February
All parents are invited to visit their child/children's classroom between 3 and 5pm on Tuesday, 2nd February. Formal presentations by teachers have been replaced by open classrooms with a handout about classroom operations to be distributed by classroom teachers. This short informal visit is an opportunity to see your child's classroom, meet their teacher and so that you won't be left wondering, check out your child's work space and arrangement of stationery items.

eCommunication
Parents are reminded that the school newsletter is sent electronically each fortnight. The school app is used to send reminders and to convey important messages. It is important for parents to check the newsletter for diary dates and for details for any online bookings for parent/teacher/student interviews and Sacramental bookings.

Parents and Friends Association / PFA
The first meeting for the PFA is on Tuesday, 2nd February at 7:30pm in the school staffroom. All parents are invited to this meeting. Members of the PFA work tirelessly to support the school with social and fundraising activities.
Preps start Monday 1st February
In order to assist with a seamless entry for our precious preps into school on their BIG first day, Year 1 - 6 classes will go directly to their classrooms at 8:45pm on Monday 1st February. Top yard will be free for Prep parents to wave off their child/children.

Tea and Tissues are being provided by PFA members for all families on Monday 1st February in the GECCO following student drop off. This event is especially relevant for all prep parents and younger siblings to mingle with other parents who are entrusting their child to the St Martin's school community for the all-round education of their child/children.

God bless,

Dane Malone
Principal.