St. Martin of Tours School Newsletter

24th August 2016

Dear Parents,

This coming Friday morning we have our Book Parade. This will take place on the top court (weather permitting) from 9:10am. Parents are invited to join us for the parade as the students highlight their favourite books and book characters. Our Book Week Parade is an opportunity to have fun celebrating books and reading at St. Martin’s.

We wish to keep it very simple for busy families and encourage children to come dressed as a favourite book character OR bring along a favourite book with a simple prop related to their book.

This year’s Book Week Theme is “Australia: Story Country”, with the focus on celebrating our unique Australian stories and many talented Australian authors and illustrators. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring an ‘Australian flavour’ to our Book Week Parade.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS LUNCHEON

On Monday this week our school’s captains Ella Ray and Declan Braniff attended an event at St Pius X. This informal lunch recognised their role as school captains and gave them an opportunity to meet with other school captains and talk about leadership with their local Members of Parliament.

We thank Mr Bruce Atkinson (Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region and President of the Legislative Council) for providing Ella and Declan with this opportunity.

SPEECH PATHOLOGY / OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MEET AND GREET

As stated in previous newsletters we have been preparing to introduce Speech and Occupational Therapy services within our school. We will begin offering these services as of this coming Friday. Ashlee (Speech Therapy) and Lauren (Occupational Therapy) will be available in the computer laboratory this coming Friday (8:45 – 9:15) to meet with any families potentially interested in the service or who maybe just have questions about what is on offer. Feel free to join us. If you are unable to do so and have further questions please contact Teresa Michelangeli or myself.

NAPLAN

We have received the results from the recent NAPLAN assessments for Year 3 & 5 students. Individual student results will be sent home Wednesday 24th (today). If families have any queries in regards to these results please arrange a time to discuss further with your child’s teacher. The data received from these assessments does assist our school with determining overall trends and growth patterns in student achievement. In the next newsletter I would hope to provide families with some analysis of this data.

PREP MEETINGS 2017
We have completed our meetings with Prep students joining us in 2017. During these meetings we tried to get to know the 2017 Prep students. Now after having met with all the students we will visit the kindergartens later this term and then begin working on grouping the prep classes for next year.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEYS** - **SURVEYS TO BE DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK!**
Each year, Year 5 and 6 students, the whole school staff and 60 parents from St Martin’s school community are invited to complete surveys about a myriad of aspects of school. These surveys will be live from Monday 29th August until Friday 16th September 2016. Data from these surveys drives school improvement. With this in mind I strongly encourage parents to complete these surveys. If you are one of the families randomly selected to participate in this survey, I encourage you to please find time to complete it.

**PFA NEWS**

**2016 FOCUS FOR FUNDRAISING** - Redevelopment and relocation of junior playground!

**5c CHALLENGE**
Congratulations to all classes for their efforts in supporting the 5 cent challenge over the last 4 weeks. All classes provided significant contributions that led to an overall result that exceeded 2 thousand dollars. Our winning class was 2MB who raised $227 and are therefore the lucky recipients of a hot chip day. I would particularly like to acknowledge Kate Kelly who coordinated and encouraged the efforts this year.

**WINTER BALL SURVEY**
We very much need your feedback regarding the proposed Winter Ball in July 2017. We need some guidance as to whether this event is something our parents would be interested in being a part of. If we are to proceed we need to place a deposit down in coming weeks. It would be appreciated if families could complete the brief survey to assist us in determining the events viability. The link for this survey was sent via the app last week. To complete the survey please go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTLTNM5](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTLTNM5)

A secondary survey is also being conducted by the PFA to ascertain directions for 2017. Please look out for the link that will be sent via the App in coming days.

“The PFA is currently making plans for 2017 and we are keen to receive input and feedback from our school community. We are inviting all parents to complete this short (5 minute), anonymous on-line survey to share experiences and ideas - tell us what you want to see more of, what you want to see less of, what other ideas you have for activities we can provide throughout the year. We will be meeting with the Student Representative Council for their ideas too!”

**YEAR 2 LEVEL MASS**
Year 2 families are invited to join us for their level Mass on Saturday evening (September 3rd, 6pm). This will be a positive way to lead into Fathers’ Day the next morning – make sure dad can join us. After Mass, dad might like to join many of the other dads in the GECCO for some quality dad time (See below).

**YEAR 2 PARENT DINNER**
On Friday 9th September we have our next Friday night dinner. I encourage Year 2 families to come along on the night and enjoy each other’s company. I hope to see you there!

**DAD’S NIGHT**
On Saturday 3rd of September, dads are invited to come along and enjoy some light entertainment with some other dads. We are gathering in the GECCO from 7pm for a few games, a pie and a few drinks. Cost is $20 and drinks are BYO. For further information contact Bob Goulding 0409566097, robert.e.goulding@gmail.com
FATHERS’ DAY STALL

My thanks to the parents that assisted yesterday with the wrapping for the Father’s day presents. Next Thursday September 1st, each student will have the opportunity to choose a quality present for their dad at the Father’s Day stall.

EUCHARIST – YEAR 4

Our Eucharist preparations have begun in earnest for students in Year 4. Last week, families participated in a Eucharist Information Night Workshop as well as participating in the Commitment Masses last weekend. Together we now continue their preparation with the upcoming Preparation Masses leading up to the celebrations in Term 4 (4TV – 22nd & 23rd October, 4G – 5th & 6th November, 4W – 12th & 13th November)

- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 27th August, 6pm
- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 28th August, 10am
- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 1st October, 6pm
- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 2nd October, 10am
- Eucharist Retreat Day - 7th October
- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 8th October, 6pm
- Eucharist Preparation Mass – 9th October, 10am

SMOT BAND

Congratulations to all the band students for their performance at last week’s Spring Concert. The students did an awesome job, led by their equally awesome teachers. Families enjoyed hearing what they have been working on over the year. They have improved greatly and they all looked like they were really enjoying themselves.

Of course the news of Chris’ resignation was a bit sad (for us but great for him!) He has been great for the kids. All students and families have appreciated his passion and enthusiasm. We wish him all the best in his new endeavour. We have gained the services of a new band teacher, Mr Spencer Nelson who will join the program next week.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Please note that Monday October 3rd (day 1 Term 4) will be a school closure day. The OSH Club service will be offered on this day. School staff will be working with the CASEA group focusing on a new student wellbeing resource and approach (PATHS) which will begin in our school in 2017.

PARISH / SCHOOL BASKET SUPPER DANCE

During the first two weeks of term 4 we will be having an external dance teacher facilitate lessons for all our students in preparation for the Parish / School Basket Supper Dance at the beginning of Term 4. (October 15th). We hope that the vast majority of families will be able to join us on the evening. Booking are now open.

God bless

Dane Malone
(Principal)