Dear Families,

As we move closer to Christmas, our children have been celebrating with an Advent Liturgy each Monday. This week Mrs Carmel Smith spoke to the children about Coolah and where our Christmas hampers find a home. Mrs and Mr Smith, Dom Bragge and Gabby Bragge will drive to Coolah this weekend to deliver the hampers and gifts on behalf of St Vincent de Paul and the St Martin’s School community. Thank you for your generosity in filling each basket of food and bag of gifts for families in Coolah.

Celebration of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Every year the whole school is involved in an independent audit of our PBL implementation and structures. Once again St Martin’s has received a glowing report based on interviews and observations of children and staff as required by the School Evaluation Tool (SET) data. Comments in the report were very positive and included the following:

From discussions at our PBL meetings I know that Data is being collected and managed with reflection sheets going home and parents informed. This is a great practice and one I believe is demonstrating good communication with parents and assists in the success of management of student behaviour. St Martins has a wonderful group of children and teachers who care about the school and the environment. Throughout the year whenever a behaviour difficulty has been noticed the PBL team have been willing to address and assist in managing any issues including changing bell times etc. Being flexible and open to changes is a strength that St Martins and the PBL team demonstrates. Well done.
Room hire fees

Some of you may have been wondering about a small increase in tuition fees that have been indicated for 2017 by some of our contractors.

This term, the Catholic Schools Office has been working with me to ensure that Licence Agreements are in place for all peripatetic contractors operating at St Martin’s Catholic Primary School from 2017. These contractors include the music tutors, occupational therapists, speech therapists and other operators who use the school’s facilities to deliver their private business (e.g., private individual music tuition or other professional services). The licences agreements will ensure that the school meets its obligations for government funding as detailed in Section 83C of the NSW Education Act.

If you have any further questions about this please feel free to make a time to discuss this with me.

Staff farewells

Sadly over the next two weeks we will be saying goodbye to Staff who are finishing up at the end of this year. While our staffing hasn’t been finalised at this point, we know that some staff will not be returning due to retirement or the completion of their contract time.

Mrs Lyn Wood has worked at St Martin’s during 2016 as a Learning Support Teacher and Visiting Teacher (Hearing). Mrs Wood has worked in the Diocese of Broken Bay for over twenty years. We are very grateful for Mrs Wood’s support of our children this year and we hope that she enjoys the new lifestyle that retirement will bring.

Mr Paul Borkowski has worked at St Martins for the past three years as a Visiting Teacher (Vision). Mr Borkowski will be moving to be based at Mater Maria next year. We would like to thank Mr Borkowski for all his support during his time at St Martin’s.

Mrs Kirsten Tully is one of our Learning Support Assistants who has worked in the area of Vision support for the past three years. During this time Mrs Tully has created some intricate 3D models and other resources which have each taken many hours of careful work and much attention to detail. One of these models of Parliament House was the focus of comment during the stage three school excursion to Canberra. The staff at the Exhibition Centre were amazed at the fine detail and were observing that it was an outstanding model. Mrs Tully will be greatly missed by the teachers and children and we wish her all the very best in her next career adventure.

Mrs Gail Hallinan will be completing her six months of teaching Year 4, at the end of this term. We hope to see Mrs Hallinan at St Martin’s next year as one of our regular casual teachers. Mrs Hallinan has contributed in many ways to our school this year, and has been especially dedicated to the assessment and support of children with learning difficulties.

Mrs Emma Scott will be finishing her year as one of the two teachers in Year 2. Mrs Scott has done some wonderful work with our Year 2 children and will be greatly missed at St Martins. We hope to also see Mrs Scott as one of our casual teachers from time to time next year.

Mrs Dee Williams has been at St Martins for the past two terms as our Learning Support Teacher and has been offered a similar position closer to her home. Last week Mrs Williams and I presented our staff’s work, showing how we support children with special needs, to the auditor from Price Waterhouse

Learning excellence in a caring community

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal
The group. Journey (Years and will Prepare website more! you Xt3 Advent Martin’s. Shine Mark with Principal’s. This next open download Congratulations with the Principal. Helen School Strength and Gentleness Mass. The school community will also have an opportunity to farewell Mrs Hannah Creelman and Mrs Barbara

Classrooms for 2017

The staff and I have been thinking creatively about the best learning environments for our children for next year. The multi-age K/1 class will be in the “multipurpose room” (currently year 4 classroom) and will have easy access to the courtyard as an outdoor learning space near Father Michael’s house.

This move out of the kindergarten and Year 1 rooms created two large empty classrooms that Year 5 and 6 would like to move to. Stage 3 have been working together as a multi-age learning group this year and have achieved much great learning together.

Year 2 will move closer to the K/1 and courtyard area to create a K-2 learning space. This year Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) has also successfully worked together for Science and Technology in a multi-age learning group.

The moving of furniture around the school will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. We will have a team to help with the move, but would also appreciate any time parents could spend helping with cleaning the chairs or moving tables and chairs.

Principal’s Award for “Strength and Gentleness”

Mark Smith (Year 6) has continuously shown great strength and resilience and ongoing gentleness in all that he does. Congratulations Mark you are an amazing example to us all at St Martin’s.

Advent App

Xt3 is an award-winning, interactive social media platform, bringing you the latest Catholic videos, podcasts, articles and more! Featuring live webcasts, youth ministry resources and Smartphone Apps for Lent and Advent, Xt3 will keep you in touch with Church news and events.

Xt3 has a wonderful Advent Calendar Resource that you can download onto your Android phone or tablet, ipad or iphone. Click on the link below to access the website - then download the relevant icon for your device. Download the App now and a new door will open on the Advent Calendar each day until the 8th of January.

Prepare your heart for Christ and go deeper in your faith. Journey with Xt3 this Advent 2016 - Click here to go to the Xt3 website http://www.xt3.com/advent/

Helen Leigh Principal

Learning excellence in a caring community

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal
Extending Mathematical Understanding Program 2017: The Catholic Schools Office is again asked schools to undertake the EMU program next year. This means using the Mathematical Assessment Interview at the start of the year to indicate student ability levels. We will again be conducting these assessments at the end of the second week of school, thereby allowing the students to get back into their normal school routines. We will also continue to support the most vulnerable students next year through the provision of intervention sessions.

The MAI tests will be held on 9-10 February for Years 1 – 6. Kindergarten will be assessed from 30 – 31 January.

We will again be using the “School Interviews” online booking system. This system will allow you to make your choices for all your children at times that suit you. More information will be sent out to you in the coming weeks.

Great Debate: The annual St Martin’s School Great Debate will be held on Thursday 8th December. At this debate, the current Year 6 debaters challenge the up-and-coming Year 5 debaters.

Inspire Feedback: The Catholic Schools Office were most impressed with our Inspire 2016 presentation and the quality of the project undertaken. They were amazed by the directions we took the “Learning Beyond the Walls” and the authenticity of the student learning. Some of the themes they commended us were:

- The importance of real world contexts for learning;
- Involving students in authentic co-design of the learning;
- Relationships between teachers and students are key;
- Ensuring we build-in student thinking time;
- Teachers’ mindset is essential to innovation;
- The importance of a common language around innovation.

They congratulated us on the great thinking and learning that we have undertaken this year and looked forward to supporting our innovation next year.

Chris Biefeld
Assistant Principal

Sport News

Congratulations!

A special congratulations to Andrew Boulton (Year 4) who has been selected to represent the Diocese of Broken Bay at the Polding Cricket Trials to be held in Newcastle next February. A wonderful achievement Andrew.
MISSION AND PASTORAL CARE NEWS

This weekend marks the 3rd week of Advent, a special time during our Church Year. This week we light the pink candle. It is the shepherd candle or the Candle of Joy. In the third week of Advent we are reminded to bring good news to the poor. As we light the third candle on our Advent wreath let us remember that Jesus is the light of our world. May we always see His face in the poor. How can we shine Christ’s light this week?

Please remember to join us on Monday at 9am in the church for our Advent Liturgy.

Outdoor Mass and Carols

All families are encouraged to attend the Parish Outdoor Mass and carols on:

**Saturday 10th December from 5:30pm at OLGC.**

Bring along a picnic and join in celebrating the joys of this festive season!

Parish News:

PASTORAL CARE NEWS:

PBL

Positive Behaviours for Learning

A reminder that our three school rules are:

  Care for Learning
  Care for Self and Others
  Care for the Environment

Please take the time to discuss the school rules with your children this week.

This fortnight’s focus is:
  Keep a Safe Environment

Shine the light of Christ in this third week of Advent,

Pip Smith (Acting REC)

Kindergarten News

Yoga in Kindy

Last week Kindy were lucky enough to have Mrs Horne visit and teach us the Twelve Days of Christmas using yoga moves. She was ably assisted by Abby, Eva, Gabby and Sami who attend the before school yoga classes.
### Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| December 8 | 9-11.30am The Great Debate  
9.15am Mass (Year 4)  
2.00pm Reconciliation (Year 3) |
| 12 | Last Before School Chess  
Third Week in Advent Liturgy (Year 6)  
5.00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass  
7.00-9.00pm Year 6 Graduation Forestville RSL |
| 13 | Year 6 Reflection Day |
| 14 | K-6 Cake Celebration for Year 6  
Catholic Care OSHC Christmas Party |
| 15 | Last Day of School Banking  
PBL Reward Day (wear clothes in the colour of your house if in winning house) |
| 16 | 11.30am Strength and Gentleness Mass  
Last day of Term for Students  
**All students to wear full summer uniform please** |
| 2017 January 27 | Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day |
| 30 | First day of School Years 1-6  
Kindy Best Start Assessments |
| 31 | Kindy Best Start Assessments |
| February 1 | First day of School Kindergarten |
| 9 | MAI Assessments Years 1-6 – Pupil Free Day for Years 1-6 ONLY |
| 10 | Staff Development Day & MAI Assessments Yrs 1-6  Pupil Free Day ALL STUDENTS |

### School Banking

Please remember that Thursday 1st December was the last day for ordering Rewards for this year.  
School banking will continue up to the 15th December.

### BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following children who are celebrating their birthdays this week and in the next week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Lachlan Connell</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elijah De-Fina</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Learning excellence in a caring community*

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal.
Library News

Thank you to the families who have returned their overdue books. We still have over 150 books missing.

Please have a good look at home and return them to our library this week. Ice block will be given as a reward for the class with the least number of overdue books.

A further reminder was sent out to students with overdue books yesterday. Thank you for your assistance.

Angie Debien
Teacher Librarian

CHESS 2017 - TIME and DAY CHANGE FOR NEXT YEAR

Chess is moving from before school on Mondays to Thursday lunchtimes in 2017. Please see attached the flyer on the last page of the newsletter for booking and price information.

St Martin’s Playgroup

Playgroup has finished for 2016!!

You are very welcome to come and play at

St Martin’s Playgroup

Mondays from 9am – 10am

Recommences February 6th 2017

147 Prahran Avenue
Davidson 2085

This informal playtime will be held in our new playground (weather permitting). Bring a snack for your child if you wish and we will make you a tea or coffee.

Tel: 9452 2022 for more information – otherwise just turn up!

Learning excellence in a caring community

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal
Bare Creek Trail Run

Thank you to all who participated in the Bare Creek Trail Run. It was a very successful event and it was wonderful to see so many families and friends enjoying the bushland on a Sunday morning. Our St Martin’s winners will be presented with their trophy at the Assembly this Monday morning. Assembly will follow our Advent Liturgy, which begins at 9:00 am in the Church.

Congratulations to these winners.

10Km
Matthew Lill - 1st Boy
No Girls competed
Irena Wasko first Parent

6km
Liam Howells - 1st Boy
Chloe Ford - 1st Girl
Amanda Kiersey - 1st Adult

2km
Zoe Arcus - 1st Girl
Sam Kiersey - 1st Boy
Learning excellence in a caring community

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal
The simplest way ...

to slice up a citrus salad.

**Ingredients**

**Salad:** 1 avocado; 1 orange; 1 grapefruit; 3 cups baby spinach leaves.

**Dressing:** ⅛ tsp pepper; 1 tsp canola oil; ⅛ tsp Dijon mustard; 1 tbs balsamic vinegar.

**Decoration** (optional): 1 orange, finely sliced; 1 grapefruit, finely sliced; 1 cup bean sprouts.

**Method:** Chop avocado into one-centimetre cubes. Segment orange and grapefruit. Toss in a bowl with baby spinach. In a small bowl or glass, whisk together pepper, canola oil, mustard, and balsamic vinegar. Serve dressing on top of salad or as a side. Arrange orange and grapefruit slices around the serving plate. Top with bean sprouts.

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
Why Chess?
• Create Brighter Thinkers
• Improve Student Focus
• Achieve Academic Success

Combines learning with fun!

St Martin’s Primary School (Davidson) Chess Classes, 2017
Thursdays 12:45PM - 1:45PM in the Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Cost:</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>9th Feb - 6th Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>27th Apr - 29th Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>20th Jul - 21st Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>12th Oct - 7th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To enrol please pay online with your credit card at

Enter the code 9ZL0SpOPE8 and fill in the electronic form, with your child’s details.

*No refunds or credits for missed lessons during the term.*

OPTIONAL EXTRAS (prices include delivery)
To enhance your child’s learning experience these items are available for purchase online at the time of enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workbook 1 – Cost:</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workbook 2 – Cost:</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workbook 1 &amp; 2 – Cost:</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploration in Chess Beauty – Cost:</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chess Set &amp; Roll-up Board – Cost:</td>
<td>$33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chess Clock – Cost:</td>
<td>$76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pay for four terms in advance and receive a free chess set or workbook 2 valued at up to $33. Offer expires 31st March, 2017.

Learning excellence in a caring community
Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the school principal