Monday 27 February 2017

Principal’s Message:

We are excited to be part of a Community of Learning (CoL) with all the other Catholic Schools in Dunedin. This is a Ministry of Education initiative where groups of schools with a common interest join a group where they support each other, share ideas, resources and professional development. It’s aim is to take the competitiveness out and to work more collaboratively together. Last week I attended our CoL’s Visioning Days along with other Principals, BOT Members and Teachers. We worked together on our shared vision and goals which is a fantastic and exciting start.

Welcome to Kaila Rioveros who started St Mary’s today. We also welcome her parents Dante & Teresa to our school family, and wish Kaila many happy school days!
Sport:
*Touch*: Thursday 2nd March

Congratulations to the ‘Player of the Day’ last week - La Charna Moataáne

*Teeball*: Saturday 4th March.

Congratulations to the ‘Player of the Day’ last week - Gabriel Kubala

*Draws for both games are not out yet, we will post them on Facebook ASAP.*

Girls ‘Smash’ Cricket

Emilie and Sophie are loving the girls only cricket games on Monday afternoons! This is a new Otago Cricket initiative played at Logan Park for girls aged Year 3-6.

This is a free programme, for more information email jess@otagocricket.co.nz, or talk to Tama or Will in the playground!

Goal Setting Interviews

*Today* - *Monday 27th February from 3.15 - 6.00pm*

Children are bringing home their goals today.

Read over them with your child and feel free to discuss them at your interview this afternoon. Thank you for your support.

Weetbix Tryathlon

*Sunday 5th March - Memorial Park, Mosgiel.*

This is our main fundraiser for Term 1. We are feeding all the marshals morning tea and lunch. Thank you so much to all those who have helped out by volunteering food and/or baking.

Can you please deliver all food/baking to school by Friday morning.

We still need a few more items donated, please see the list in the office. Fruit especially - Alice has a contact for our fruit, so see her or Jacquie with regards to this.

We also need a few people to deliver on the day, which is Sunday morning about 10 am.

Please see Jacquie if you can help. Remember many hands make light work and that if we get everything donated our profit will be bigger.
This week at a glance:

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<th>Day</th>
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| Monday    | Goal Setting interviews.  
TBall Practice after school.                                                |
| Tuesday   | Blessings of the Ashes Liturgy (10:20 am)                                 |
| Wednesday | Ash Wednesday Mass at Little Sisters (11:00 am). Carseats please.  
PTA AGM in the staffroom 3:00 pm - Children are to be booked into after school club. |
| Thursday  | Touch.                                                                    |
| Friday    | Food/Baking to be dropped at school.                                      |
| Saturday  | T Ball.                                                                  |
| Next Week | Monday - Yr3/4 Have a go day at Edgar.  
Friday - Assembly (2:30 pm).  
Friday 10 March - Working Bee (3:00 - 7:00 pm). |

Walk and Wheel Week - This week: 27th February - 3rd March

It is on this week - even if you travel by car, you can park further away and walk the rest of the distance.
If you are ‘wheeling’ please remember your helmets.
There will be daily prizes for all children that remember to walk or wheel and then put a sticker on their chart.

Working Bee Friday 10 March @3:00 - 7:00 pm

A list of things that we need to get done and tidied up will be up next week.
Please come when you can and leave when you must.
The BBQ will be on at tea time for a sausage or two.

Special Character and Religious Education:

We begin our Lent celebrations this week. You are very welcome to join us for a liturgy on Tuesday at 10:20 am where we bless the ashes, or on Wednesday at Little Sisters at 11:00 am for Ash Wednesday Mass.  
*We will be travelling by car on Wednesday so all children under 7 yrs will need to bring a carseat to school with them please.*

Ash Wednesday marks the season of Lent. This is a period of 40 days where we prepare ourselves for Easter. During our RE lessons we will be talking about how this is a time when we try to make some changes in our lives so that we can become the best person we can be. It’s a time to take away some of the distractions in our lives, and focus more on family and on God.
Katia’s Granny & Grandad gave us a whole lot of plums from their backyard! We used them to make some yummy plum pinwheel pastries at Discovery Time on Friday, and they are a favourite in our fruit bowl at After School Club!

The last few weeks during Enviro Studies we have been harvesting our school gardens! We gathered rhubarb and cabbages for our school families, and last week we dug up an ENORMOUS bucket of potatoes! We are going to use some this week to make scalloped potatoes for school lunches!

We have had lots of fun and learning while waiting for our class caterpillars to change into butterflies! Elsa and Elena hatched last week and when they were strong enough we released them onto our bank. We can’t wait to share our learning with you at assembly!

Week 4 was another busy week in Room 3. We have tried to stick to routine wherever possible, although there was a few changes through the week which the children responded to very well.

Over the past 2 weeks we have focussed on descriptive writing and what makes a good piece of writing. The children were introduced to a ‘Show and not Tell’ method. This style of writing is based on the Words Alive programme which St Marys has used for many years.

Using their 5 senses the children are asked to picture a setting and to use emotions and senses to describe the scene instead of using common nouns. There are sample writing pieces up around the room so please feel free to come and have a read.

For Maths we have been working on percentages and decimals and how they relate to fractions. Any extra support at home for this strand would be very beneficial for your child.

The children have been very excited to get outside on Thursday for touch practice and have all shown improvement each session. There is a wide gap in the level of experience on the team, from children that have played for many seasons to children who have never played before.

I am looking forward to sitting down with you tonight to discuss your child’s goals, any concerns you may have and to keep you updated with what’s happening at our school.

Many thanks, Jeremy

**Sausage Sizzle Fridays**

| Name _____________________________ | No. of Sausages $1.50 each ____________ | Ice Block $1.00 each _______ |