Busy start to the Year!

I can’t believe that we are in week five of the term already. We are certainly up and running. Time flies when you are having fun!

It has been a busy start to the term with many great activities and events happening around the school.

We held our Parent Information night which was a great opportunity to gather and share ideas and communicate information about the year ahead. I would like to thank all parents who attended. It shows your commitment to your child and willingness to work in partnership with us.

Year 8’s will be presented with their leadership badges at this Friday’s Assembly.

Last Friday Mrs Griffith organised a Retreat Leadership day which focused on the significance and meaning of our school leadership badge ‘Crescere Maior’ and ‘Goal Setting’. Hopefully they will be inspired to lead with pride and continue to be positive role models for all students at St Mary’s.

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From our Captains

The first few weeks of this year have been amazing. As we learnt last year, our tablets don’t bounce that well, which was a good lesson for everyone. In technology, instead of building a beach chair, we get to make foldable camp stools, which don’t need any screws at all if they are built correctly. But we have to wait until Term 2 for that. This term we get to do Mechanical Lego, and throw eggs off a balcony (putting the egg in a container so that it hopefully doesn’t break). In Home Economics, I think everyone enjoys the cooking the most, as we get to make and eat some pretty delicious food.

Chloe Moxley

I’m Nick Bonhomme one of the Middle School Captains here at St Mary’s. This is my second year in Middle School and it has been fantastic ever since we started. I feel very privileged to have been a part of the first year of Middle School and I am camp with our Year 7 students at Thunderbird Park. The camp instructors were so impressed with the quality of leadership and enthusiasm demonstrated by our students throughout the entire camp.

Students challenged themselves and conquered their fears whilst participating in a range of activities and group challenges.

Mrs Nicki Wylle

really enjoying the start of 2016. We welcome the new year sevens and I hope they are enjoying the start to the year. I am sure, like we all did last year, they are loving their new computers, moving from class room to class room, changing teachers and all of the new and exciting subjects Middle School has to offer.

Nicholas Bonhomme
Noticeboard

Item 1 - Class Dojo
By now you should have received your parent codes for signing up to Class Dojo. Please go to www.classdojo.com to sign up to receive reports about your child’s progress.

Item 2 - Homework
At our Parent Information evening the discussion of homework was raised. Teachers will be further clarifying with students what they should be doing at home to complete assignments in a timely manner. Students should be completing 45-60 mins of homework per night. It would be rare that students had no homework to complete. They should always be reading, revising and completing set tasks. Please speak to your child and talk about what homework they have so that they are not falling behind in class. Their ability to explain to you will give clues to their level of understanding. An assessment planner was sent home last week so that students have advanced knowledge of when assignments and tests are.

Item 3 - Diet
During Morning Tea and Lunch breaks we have noticed that some students are not eating an adequate amount of food. We have spoken to the students as a whole about the importance of a healthy diet to fuel their bodies and keep them functioning throughout the day.

During Health lessons they are exposed to the Healthy Eating Food Pyramid and reminded about the importance of a daily intake of fruit and vegetables. Teachers will be further clarifying with students what they should be completing at home to complete assignments in a timely manner. Students should be completing 45-60 mins of homework per night. It would be rare that students had no homework to complete. They should always be reading, revising and completing set tasks. Please speak to your child and talk about what homework they have so that they are not falling behind in class. Their ability to explain to you will give clues to their level of understanding. An assessment planner was sent home last week so that students have advanced knowledge of when assignments and tests are.

Item 4 - Indonesian Trip
Middle School parents have been sent an expression of interest form through the Skool Bag app for the proposed trip to Indonesia later this year. By returning this form you are simply saying that you are interested in finding out more information, it is not a commitment. There will be an information night held to provide you with more details before any decisions must be made.

Item 5 - Sports Trials
Over the past week we have had students travel to Warwick to participate in both Summer and Winter regional sports trials. I would like to congratulate Nick Bonhomme for making Border District Basketball team to participate in the Darling Downs trials on the 15th March. Since we are in the high school category please be aware that these trials are either U15 or Open ages and only students who play competently at a club level should be nominated. Students born in 2004 will still nominate through the primary school and Mac Zone.

Item 6 - Morning Fitness
Mr Goodes has been running a fitness group every Wednesday morning from 6.30am—7.30am. The group has been focusing on strength and aerobic fitness work. Everyone is welcome!

Item 7—Student Email
Students have been responsibly using their email accounts to contact teachers and peers about homework, assignments and school notices. I have been impressed with their mature approach to technology and the way they have looked after their devices. Students were told that if they email a teacher after 5pm it will not necessarily be seen or responded to so they shouldn’t rely on responses at night in order to complete tasks. They must complete tasks to the best of their ability and communicate with teachers the following day to clarify information if necessary.

Item 8 - Father Michael
We are very fortunate to have Father Michael as our Parish Priest. He has an innate ability to relate to our students and enjoys coming and visiting our Middle School students in their classrooms and during their lunch breaks.

For those wanting to contact Father Michael about any issues or concerns his email is as follows:

stmarysgdi@bigpond.com