



14th March 2018

Dear Parents,

School has certainly been busy over the past few days. Last week we started **Catholic Schools Week** with a beautiful liturgy and open classrooms. We finished the week conducting tours for more than 50 prospective new families. My thanks to our Year 6 leaders and P&F who made Friday a huge success. If you have a child, or know of a child, eligible to start Kindergarten next year then please complete an enrolment form and return it to the office as soon as possible.

This week we conducted our first **"See My Learning"** alternative assembly. Stage 2 had many visitors and it was a wonderful sharing of learning. The students certainly had an opportunity to make their learning seen. It was unfortunate that yesterday we had to postpone the Year 2-6 Cross Country – this will now be held next Wednesday 21st March.

A number of staff from Stage 2 and 3 will be attending 3 days of Professional Learning this week with educators from Texas on **Project Based Learning**. This is a continuation of the work we began in our school in late 2016 and continued last year. This is an exciting expansion of our work and I will also be attending the 3 days of Professional Learning.

At our last P&F Meeting we discussed some of the activities that the children have access to and I thought it might be worthwhile sharing the list of what's on offer... As you may know there are many things for the students to do on the playground at lunch times. On the *Mercy Playground this includes* soccer or touch footy on the new grass, two Giant Connect 4's, Giant Snakes and Ladders, Hopscotch, cars (with racing mats), blocks, a 'library of books,' a multitude of balls and hula-hoops. In the next week we will add Giant Lego, a fitness game and a new tossing game called Corn Hole. On the *Marist Playground this includes* handball, basketball, Giant Chess, Giant Checkers, Giant Jenga, Giant Noughts and Crosses, Giant Dominos and access to the Library. In addition, there are many Lunch Time Clubs (which change with the seasons / interests of the children) but include: Board Games, Gardening Club, Senior and Junior Choir, Dance Group and Coding Club. We also have Glee Club which is run by Teaching Services Australia.

Acoustic Guitar Survey – Thank you to the families that did respond to the survey. I contacted Teaching Services Australia (TSA) and they indicated they would be able to offer Acoustic Guitar if there was a minimum of 15 interested students. Students would also have to choose guitar or a band instrument due to the availability of a tutor. Unfortunately there was not enough interest for TSA to offer Acoustic Guitar.

This year we would like to establish, for parents, a series of short videos to answers questions and queries on a range of topics. Our first **"How To" videos** will focus on our use of technology. Please complete and return the slip below with any suggestions on what you feel you "need to know" e.g. Google Classroom, creating and sharing a Google doc, information on apps or the school's BYO iPad programme. We will use this information to tailor our first "How To videos".

With Peace and Best Wishes,

Richard Blissenden
Principal

Topics for the 'How To' clips could include:

Please return to the office with any suggestions.