

ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

LEADERSHIP NEWS



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we conclude the 2023 school year, it is an opportunity to take time to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings in our school community. This year's school theme was "Being in Communion" and throughout the year, there were opportunities for all of us to engage and 'share' with our school community and invigorate a sense of being together which has been missing over the past couple of years due to COVID. Of significance was our Evening on the Green late Term 1 hosted by our Parent Network. This event was definitely a highlight of the year as it brought students and their families together on a Friday evening to embrace a night of fun at the school.

In reflecting on the year, there are three 'R' words that come to mind and apply to every member of our community which I would love to share with you.

The first 'R' stands for Rejoice – all of us have much to rejoice and we can start by counting our blessings for this year which is about to conclude. We can thank God for having caring teachers, classmates and colleagues, for ensuring all students achieved favourable End of Year reports reflective of their achievements.



For being able to participate in a wealth of extra curricula activities and now to have a summer vacation that allows each of us to take a break from the routine of school.

The next 'R' stands for Reflect – seize the time to reflect upon everything you did throughout this year. As we embark on our Christmas break this afternoon, each and every member of St Martin's community should be able to silently reflect on their achievements and challenges and give thanks for the myriad of learning opportunities and experiences that were encountered throughout the year.

The final 'R' stands for Restart - Reflection may trigger some emotions as it reveals what you have or have not achieved this year whether you are a staff member or student. You are advised to keep on reflecting as this restarts the cycle of learning and planning. During the summer break, all of us need to set goals for ourselves, do some preparatory work for the coming school year and equip ourselves with knowledge and skills that can help improve our learning and working capacity for 2024.

I hope that all of you can make use of the 3 Rs – Rejoice, Reflect and Restart over the coming days.

A special thanks is extended to all students who have academically achieved favourable outcomes in their learning and challenged themselves to new levels of thinking and production of work this year.



Thanks is extended to all of our parents and volunteers for supporting the school throughout 2023, especially those parents who volunteered on committees and assisted with excursions and sporting activities.

Finally and not the least, I extend a huge bouquet of thanks to the wonderful staff at St Martin's. Thank you to every classroom teacher, specialist teacher, our Admin and Curriculum ESO's, our OSHC team and the Leadership team who have dedicated themselves to making a difference to the students in their care and ensuring that our school is an efficient, safe, clean and vibrant environment.

This week, we say goodbye to several staff members who have played an important part in developing the great spirit that we have here in the St Martin's community.

We farewell:

- **Frances Dello** who has won a position at Blackfriars ELC next year. Frances has been on leave this year, but we acknowledge her 6 years of service at St Martin's and wish her God's richest blessing for the future.
- **Gina Robb** who has been on staff for the past 4 ½ years and has been a Year 3 teacher this year. We wish her all the very best for her future endeavours as she embarks on her next adventure.
- **Mary Mellon** who has won an Auslan teaching position at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Brompton. Mary was instrumental in implementing Auslan at our school 3 years ago and now will be introducing the language at Brompton.
- **Lisa Foti** who has been our School Chaplain for the past 2 years and undertaken various short term teaching contracts and TRT days over the past 7 years. Lisa is looking forward to the next stage of her life of just doing some TRT work.
- **Giselle DeKlerk, Eddy Jaworski, Sophie Melingakos and Dianna Ly** who have all been on our staff this year. We thank them for their contributions to our community and wish them every success for the future.
- **Bianca White** (Year 5 teacher) who is looking forward to the birth of her second child in the new year.

We also welcome the following staff members to our community next year:

- Michelle Lind (Auslan teacher) from Playford College, Elizabeth
- Kasey Ton (Year 4 teacher) from St Joseph's School, Wonthaggi
- Alessandra Dichiera (Year 3 teacher) from St Joseph's Hectorville
- Sarah O'Driscoll (Year 3 teacher) from Gawler College, Gawler
- Alyce Magliaro (Year 1 teacher and JP Coordinator)
- Cathy Agostino (Curriculum ESO) from St Ignatius College, Norwood
- Angela Duncan (Curriculum ESO) from West Wodonga, Victoria

Enclosed in this newsletter are **2024 Important Dates** for your record and the **2024 Staff List**.

I wish each and every one of you God's richest blessings for the Festive Season. May you enjoy the holiday break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Christine Comas
PRINCIPAL

St Martin's Award

Today the St Martin's Award was presented to a student who has lived out the eight St Martin's values most consistently throughout their time in our school community.



The 2023 recipient for the St Martin's Award went to Hugh Mander – a very worthy winner.

St Martin's Sports Award

The 2023 recipients for the St Martin's Sports Award went to Jasmin 6RK and Tyler 6RK.

APRIM NEWS



The Birth of Jesus - Gospel Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Why the Manger in the Nativity Story?

A manger is a feed trough found in a stable. In Bible times mangers were made from clay mixed with straw or from stones held together with mud; sometimes they were carved in natural outcroppings of rock.

The Gospel of Luke gives us a play-by-play of the moments leading up to our Savior's birth. Although that divine narrative explains Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the circumstances surrounding the blessed event, Scripture gives us only one detail about where our Savior spent His first moments on earth. He was laid in a manger.

When Jesus was born, Luke tells us that Mary laid him in something called a manger. The word used for manger is the Latin word mundicare, which means 'to eat'.

The manger was not just a sign for the shepherds; it is a sign to all of us that Jesus is accessible to everyone who seeks Him. The shepherds would not have had access to a baby born in a royal palace, and as strangers, they probably would not even have had access to a baby born in the confines of a family home. But a manger was accessible to all – and still is today!

Newborn Jesus, the Bread of Life, lay in a feeding trough in the little town of Bethlehem, which means 'the house of bread' in Hebrew. No other food has the power to give us everlasting life and those who feast on this 'bread' will never be hungry again. Our faith will be renewed for life!



Outreach

Thank you for all of your generous support with our Outreach Program this year. Donations for St Vincent De Paul, Project Compassion, Mary MacKillop Foundation, Catholic Charities, Backpack for Kids and Catholic Missions has been astounding. We are heart people.

Greenacres Walkerville Parish News

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve - St Monica's Church – 5:30pm Carols - children are invited to dress as angels and shepherds – 6:00pm Mass.

Christmas Eve - St Martin's Church – 9:00pm Carols – 9:30pm Mass

Christmas Day - St Monica's Church – 10:00am Mass – Ordinate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

Christmas Day – St Martin's Church – 9:30am Mass.

Parish Christmas Family Mass – Rehearsal

Our Parish Christmas Family Mass will be held on Sunday, 24 December at St Monica's Church, Walkerville.

Rehearsal for our Parish Christmas Family Mass will be held in St Monica's Church (date to be confirmed). Any children who would like a part to play in this Mass, and any adults who would like to support them, will need to be at this rehearsal. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Office or approach Sr Rita at Mass prior to 14th December.

From all of us here at St Martin's, we wish God's peace and love to you and your families this Christmas.

Rose Valenti

Congratulations

Congratulations to Shinepreet Kaur, a former student at St Martin's who received the Pro Regno Christi Award for modelling the OLSH Spirit in her daily actions at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College in 2023.

We are very proud of your achievement!



ST MARTIN'S PE AWARD

The St Martin's PE Award is presented to two students at the end of every school year and recognises a student's enthusiasm and participation in sporting activities and acknowledges, fair play, effort, consistency, and achievement in Physical Education.

Congratulations to **Jasmin 6RK and Tyler 6RK**



THANK YOU SPORTS-VOLUNTEERS!

A sincere thank you again, to all the volunteers who have helped this year with sports teams and sports carnivals. Without your help, many of the opportunities afforded to the students at St Martin's would not be possible. Your contributions are always appreciated.

Sports Dates 2024

Term 1

March 6: SAPSASA District Swimming Carnival - Norwood Pool, 12-2:45pm

March 27: SAPSASA Netball Carnival

April 2: SACPSASA Athletics Carnival (Section 3) - SA Aquatic Centre, 10.00am

April 12: St Martin's Sports Day

Term 2

All Term Jump Rope for Heart

May16: SAPSASA District Cross Country Carnival – Park 9, 12-2:45pm

May 20-24: SACPSSA Lacrosse Carnival

July 1-4: SACPSSA Netball Carnival

Term 3

August 6-9: SAPSASA Basketball Carnival – Lightsview, 8:20am-2:30pm (date TBC)

August 7: SACPSSA Cross Country Carnival

August 12: SAPSASA Basketball Carnival – Lightsview, 8:20am-2:30pm (date TBC)

August 29: SAPSASA District Athletics Carnival – Bridgestone Stadium, 8:20am-3:00pm

September 4: SACPSSA Touch Football Carnival

September 4: SAPSASA Come and Try Carnival – TBC

September 5: SAPSASA Come and Try Carnival – TBC

September 19-20: SACPSSA Cricket Carnival

Term 4

October 16: SACPSASA Tennis Carnival

November 4: SACPSASA Athletics Carnival (Section 4)

Week 5: PE Week



IMPORTANT DATES – 2024

TERM DATES

Term 1	Monday, 29 January to Friday 12 April
Term 2	Tuesday 30 April to Friday, 5 July
Term 3	Tuesday, 23 July to Friday, 27 September
Term 4	Tuesday, 15 October to Wednesday, 11 December

LENT | EASTER DATES

14 February	Ash Wednesday
28 March	Holy Thursday
29 March	Good Friday
31 March	Easter Sunday

PUPIL FREE DAYS (SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS)

Term 1	Tuesday 12 March Restorative Practices - all employees
Term 2	Monday 29 April Moderation with St Monica's Staff – all teachers
Term 3	Monday, 22 July Whole School Staff Retreat – all employees
Term 4	Monday, 14 October Reflective Practice Day - all teachers

SIGNIFICANT DATES

Friday, 2 February	Beginning of Year Mass
Friday, 12 April	Sports Day
Monday, 13 May to Sunday, 19 May	Catholic Education Week
Friday, 7 June	Feast of the Sacred Heart
Friday, 21 June	Cultural Day
Thursday, 8 August	Mary MacKillop Feast Day
Monday 19 August to Friday 23 August	Catholic Schools Open Week
Saturday, 17 August to Friday, 23 August	Book Week
Sunday 1 September to Saturday September 7	Child Protection Week
Friday, 25 October	Grandparents' Day and World's Teachers Day
Monday, 11 November	St Martin's Feast Day
Friday, 29 November	School Concert
Wednesday, 11 December	End of Year Mass Graduation Ceremony



STAFF LIST 2024

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal	Christine Comas
Deputy Principal	Susanne Harding
APRIM	Rose Valenti

TEACHING STAFF

Reception Unit

RD	Vanessa Dibbens
RP	Katia Pedersen
RT	Coreen Taylor
RV	Natasha Voiklis
Transition Term 3	TBA

Year 1 Unit

1A	Alexandra Appelbee
1B	Alicia Bolzon
1BM	Katherine Belperio
	Alyce Magliaro
1S	Rachel Spry

Year 2 Unit

2I	Maria Iannotti
2M	Marnie Moss
2P	Stephanie Patching
2SW	Sue Schmick
	Helen Williams

Year 3 Unit

3D	Alessandra Dichiera
3G	Dylan George
3J	Jasmina Jukic
3O	Sarah O'Driscoll

Year 4 Unit

4G	Linda Gentilcore
4M	Daniel Milford
4R	Karolina Radomanski
4T	Kasey Ton

Year 5 Unit

5B	Tessa Bahr
5D	Nicolle D'Allocco
5R	Vincent Rignanese

Year 6 Unit

6GM	Louise Gellard
	Wayne Martin
6M	Melanie Maguire
6RK	Mark Roberts
	Olivia Kropinski

Network Technician

Alex Klajn
Christopher Franz

Counsellor

Ruby Lai

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Art	Helen Williams
Auslan	Michelle Lind
Music	Jasmine Lim
Physical Education	Michael Woods

EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICERS

Business Manager	Luke Healey
Receptionist	Nadia Uдина
Enrolment Registrar	Mandy Goodfellow
Payroll Officer	Terina Elphick
Admin Officer	Angela Norton
Library Assistant	Michele Dick
	Wendy Hill
Curriculum	Bobby Rodgers
	Dora Bouras
	Sharon Prior
	Kelly Jones
	Elizabeth Ciano
	Emma De Ron
	Reine Bolding
	Jasmine Jenkins
	Felicia Tsiarafos
	Jenushair Fernando
	Cathy Agostino
	Angela Duncan
	Allison Krause
	Kat Hope

WHS Coordinator

Canteen	Michele dick
Sustainability Officer	Nives Grgic
Chaplain	Peter Kuerschner
Groundsman	Sr Brenda Ballinger
School Nurse	Jason Bielak
WHS	Emma Kondrat
OSHC Director	Michele Dick
OSHC Assistant Director	Steve Clark
	Peter Pudney

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE TEAM

Principal	Christine Comas
Deputy Principal	Susanne Harding
APRIM	Rose Valenti
Leader of Learning	Helen Young
STEM	Mark Roberts
SETQA Coordinator	Lousie Gellard
Wellbeing Coordinator	Mel Jones
Inclusive Ed Coordinator	Wayne Martin
EALD Coordinator	Olivia Kropinski
Early Years Coordinator	Alyce Magliaro