Welcome to our new Foundation Students: This morning our six Foundation students commenced their primary schooling. The school community welcome Sophie Burke, Zachariah Clapham, Victory Davis, Libby Griffiths, Elijah Mansibang and Skye Spencer to St. Mary’s. All our Foundation students have a sibling to support them at St. Mary’s and shared this special event with their families.

John and Zachariah Clapham had an extra special holiday welcoming their new sister Nakyra Coral. Congratulations Tahlia and Tabertia on the birth of your daughter.

St. Mary’s Parish Donald Sunday, February 3rd
The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Mass will be held at 10.30am at St Mary’s.
**Swimming:** The swimming program commences on **Monday, February 1st** and finishes with the **Swimming Sports on Friday, February 19th**. The program will run each day except Wednesday, February 10th when the High School are holding their Swimming Sports. Please note that students are required to wear a swimming vest or T-shirt over their bathers. Sunscreen will be provided but students are welcome to bring their own if preferred.

**Beginning of the Year School Mass:** Mass will be celebrated on Friday, February 5th at 9.00am in the church. At this Mass the Foundation students will be officially welcomed and the first school leaders will be inducted.

**Parent Meeting:** On **Monday, February 8th** commencing at **7.30pm** there will be a meeting at the school to outline the students’ programs for the year. At this Meeting there will be an outline of the Sacramental Program, Bounce-back Program, Chinese Program and general school outline. The initial part of the meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room and then classroom teachers will provide additional information in their rooms. The Grade 5 & 6 Class and the Foundation Year 1 and 2 will be held at the same time and be followed by Grade 2,3 and 4 Class. **All families are encouraged and invited to attend.**

**Important Reminders:**
1. **Hats:** Students are required to wear their school hat during recess, lunchtime and during outdoor activities during Term One.
2. **Art Smock:** All students require an Art Smock. This can be an old shirt if more convenient.
3. **Drink Bottle:** All students are asked to bring a water bottle each day.
4. **Permission and Medical Forms:** Tomorrow these forms will be sent home. Please fill them out as soon as possible.
5. **Health Care Card:** Families are asked to inform the Office if they have a Health Care Card to allow the school to alter the School Fees owed.
6. **Phone Numbers:** Please inform the Office if your telephone number has altered.
7. **Bus Conveyance Allowance:** Reminder to any bus travelers to notify the office if assistance is required regarding this allowance.
8. **Office:** Owing to Gail being on leave and Anne teaching in the morning the Office will not always be open until 12.30pm. Please note that Anne can be contacted by telephone throughout the day and is available in the morning from 8.00am or after 12.30pm. Bernadette is in the Office all day on a Friday. Families are asked to ring the Office for appointments to see class teachers.

**Maintenance:** Many thanks to Nadine, Andrew, Allan, Chloe, Petria, Ebony and Charlie for mowing the lawns, whipper snipping and doing jobs around the yard. Everything is looking neat. Also thank you to Jason Mellings and Mark Donnellon and family for their work in cleaning up behind the Office block and organizing the watering system and several other jobs. **Monday February 1st – Monday 15th**

**Belleville and Berry families are rostered to mow the lawns and complete maintenance.**

**Working Bee:** The annual working bee will be held in the coming weeks.

**Family Assistance:** All families are reminded that if they require financial assistance or food vouchers to contact the school to assist them to source this help. Any enquiries will be strictly confidential. Please contact the Office and ask to speak to me (54971116) or contact Fr. Eugene (54971112). Anne Anderson

**Guitar:** After the swimming program these lessons will commence. Mrs Clark will provide details on the Newsletter in the coming weeks.
Pastoral Care Worker: Anne Boadle
Works at St. Mary’s each Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm.
Contact Details: Through the school 54971116 or by ringing directly on 0409 598 481.
Email: Anne.Boadle@centacareballarat.org.au

Dear St. Mary’s Families,
This year I will be in school again at the usual time of Thursday, 8.30am – 4.30pm.

Part of my role in the school, involves supporting students and their families with difficult situations, including helping to identify services that may be able to assist. I can also help families who are seeking information about parenting, grief and loss, and family separation. I can be contacted through the school or by ringing me directly on 0409 598 481, or by email at Anne.Boadle@centacareballarat.org.au

BOUNCE BACK!
The Bounce Back! Wellbeing and Resilience program which helps children to develop the skills of and get better at problem solving, helpful and optimistic thinking, managing strong emotions, making friends and getting along with others, will continue this year, with weekly class activities involving all grades.
Over Term 1 and Term 2, the Bounce Back! class activities will focus on continuing to develop the children’s understanding of and skills in making and keeping friends, managing disagreements and getting along well with others.

Each week the newsletter will have the key message from the Bounce Back! program for that week, and suggestions that parents or family members might like to use with their child.
Anne.
Pastoral Care Worker

| Monday       | Tuesday                             | Wednesday                          | Thursday                                      | Friday                          |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------
| Sport’s Uniform | Library for Gr. 5 & 6               | Library for Foundation, Gr 1       | Bounce Back sessions Mrs Boadle at school from 8.30am – 4.30pm | Sport’s Uniform                |
|              | Grade 3 & 4                         | 1 & 2                              |                                               |                                |


**Newsletter Distribution:** Newsletter will be published on Thursdays.
This year the Newsletter is able to be provided in several forms. Please be aware that it will be placed on the School App and Website on a Thursday. Families may also have the Newsletter emailed to them or continue to have a printed copy provided. If receiving an emailed copy Tuck shop and other items will be sent home as required.

Name: ____________________________________________

I would like to have a printed copy of the Newsletter. □

I would like to have the Newsletter emailed to me. □

My email address is _________________________________

I will assess the Newsletter via the School App or Website □

Please return your preference by Friday, February 12th. Note that if you do not reply the Newsletter will be sent home as usual. All families will be sent home a printed copy until after February 12th  Anne