School Captains: The first school leaders are Daniel Slater, Mitchell Jovanovski and Noah Slater. Congratulations on your interesting and inspiring commitment speeches. Fr. Eugene welcomed and blessed the six Foundation students.

Parents and Friends Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 7.30 in the Staff room. All families are invited to attend.

Swimming: The swimming program will continue daily next week and conclude with the Swimming Sports.

Swimming Sports: The school sports will be held on Friday, February 19th commencing at 11.00am. All families are invited to attend.

Parent Information Evening: Many thanks for all families who attended the Information evening. All families unable to attend have been provided with a letter outlining their child’s class room routine. Reading: Listening to your child’s reading, reading to your child or providing times for your child to read are an important help you can provide for your child’s learning. The books students take home are set at a standard which allows your child to read fluently, understand the vocabulary and competently provide a retell of the story or identify the main facts from the text.

Communication: Families are strongly encouraged to contact the school if they have concerns regarding their child. Please ring the Office as soon as possible after the concern arises. Any family wishing to meet with a class teacher are asked to ring the Office for an appointment. This helps teachers plan their time.
School Crossing: The school crossing in front of the school is no longer being supervised by a Buloke Shire employee. Families are asked to be aware of their children when using the crossing as it will not be supervised.

Camps Sports and Excursion Grants: For the coming year all students living in the Buloke Shire will be eligible for this $125.00 funding. Could families please return the signed form by the 29th of February if possible. Note the funding applications may be applied for until June 3rd 2016

School Banking: School banking will again be available and bank books are need to be brought to school on Wednesdays. Details in the packs sent home.

School Conveyance Allowance: Any family who feels they may be eligible for this allowance are asked to contact the Office for a form. Families must travel 4.8 kilometres to the bus stop.

St. Mary’s Parish Donald Sunday, February 14th
The First Sunday of Lent.
Mass will be held at 8.30am at St Mary’s.

Swimming: The swimming program continues in the coming week. Please note that students are required to wear a swimming vest or T-shirt over their bathers. Sunscreen will be provided but students are required to bring their own if preferred.

Swimming Sports will be held on Friday, February 19th from 11.00am. There will be a barbecue available for students and families to purchase lunch or students may bring their own lunch. The order form is at the back of the Newsletter.

Milo Cricket: Reminder that Milo Cricket will resume this Friday, February 12th at 3.45pm.

Important Reminders:
1. Permission and Medical Forms, Photo Permission Form and Bounceback Permission Form: Please return them by Friday, February 19th.
2. Camps, Sports, and Excursion Fund: Please return them as soon as possible, if possible by Monday, February 29th
3. 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.

Maintenance: Monday February 1st – Monday 15th Belleville and Berry families
Many thanks Gavin for your work over the weekend. The yard looks very neat.

Working Bee: The annual working bee will be held on Sunday, February 28th from 9.30am onwards. All families are encouraged to attend if possible.
Any family unable to attend but would be willing to assist at another time with maintenance is asked to contact Anne. There are a variety of jobs to be completed.

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

The Bounce Back Program.
This week in class the children will be involved in thinking and talking about what are the ways of behaving that help people get along and make friends. Class activities will also focus on encouraging the children to practice some of the social skills we use to get along with others.

Ideas from the Bounce Back program for parents.
Talk with and show your child how they can be a good friend and classmate (eg. talking with their friends/classmates about things they have in common, being a good listener, sharing and taking in turns, being kind and supportive when a friend is feeling sad or worried, playing fairly and being a good winner and loser, having good ideas for games and activities.)
Parents & Friends News
Welcome back for a new school year. The P&F are looking forward to another successful year of fundraising to help support our wonderful school - a calendar of P&F events will be published in the next few weeks. **February Meeting is next Tuesday, February 16th at 7.30pm. All welcome.**

**Bingo Thursday February 11th** This evening is the first of only a couple of Bingo nights for St Mary's Primary School this year. Everyone is invited to come along and play - proceeds go towards our school. Eyes down at 7.30 sharp.

**St Mary's Book Club** A reminder that the book club is reading *Finding Fish* by Antwone Fisher before watching the film later this term. If you'd like to join in, please source a copy or contact me on 0400 709 981 and I can find one for you.

Candece Jay
President St. Mary's Parents & Friends

**Making Good Choices** On Tuesday Dr. David Bittifant and his team visited to speak to the children about making “Good Choices” in caring for themselves and others. The children listened very attentively and showed a good awareness of the things required to look after yourself.

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**To Feel Good a person needs:**
Family
Friends
To feel energetic
Good 8 – 9 hours sleep a night
Healthy Food
Exercise each day
Feelings of success in what we do
To Feel safe
To find time to chill out.

**Students of the Weeks:**
Congratulations to Petria, Marty, Daniel and Piper on you work this week.

**Assembly Merit Awards**
Music/Drama & Library
Parker Bicket, Chloe Livingston & Liam McLachlan
Prep / 1
Shaine Mansibang & Sophie Burke
Grade 2/3/4
Zac Griffiths & Ollie Berry
Grade 5/6
Liam McLachlan & Zac Livingston
Swimming Sports’ Carnival

The Annual Swimming Sports will be held on Friday, February 19th from 11.00am. Assistance from families would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please fill in the form and return it to the school by Monday, February 15th. If you have any queries please contact Miss Carling McEvoy the Sport’s Coordinator.

Swimming Sports Parent Help

Name: ________________________

☐ Yes I am willing to assist at the Swimming Sports.

St. Mary’s Swimming Sports Lunch Order
Due back with payment – Wednesday, 17th February
Family Name: _________________________________

Barbecue Orders for Friday, February 12th
All family members are welcome to order their lunch.

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