School Crossing: Commencing Monday, February 29th there will be a supervisor on the crossing each morning and afternoon. The crossing will be supervised until June 30th.

In the coming weeks the Principal of the Donald Primary School, Danny Forrest and Jessie from the Buloke Shire will meet with me to look at future options.

It is important that families use the crossing in the coming months as the number of students using the crossing will be a determining factor in future funding of the supervision of the crossing.

Swimming Sports: Last Friday the annual Swimming Sports were held. All students participated and enjoyed the events. Many thanks to Carling McEvoy for her organization and to the parents who assisted with the Sports and cooked a delicious barbecue. A happy day for St. Mary’s school community.

Congratulations Super Sharks.

Captain Noah Slater receiving the trophy from Miss McEvoy.
Principal Awards: Congratulations to Lachlan Belleville, John Clapham and Sophie Burke on your work this week.

Assembly Friday, February 26th at 9.00am in the Multi-purpose Room – Grade 3 & 4. All families are invited to attend.

Awards: Foundation, Grade One & Two: John Clapham, Skye Spencer, Cameron Belleville, Ethan Clapham, Marty Burke
Grade Three and Four: Charlie Frank, Brianna Harmer
Grade Five and Six: Simon Morgan and Grace Leeder

Mik Maks Concert: Students in Foundation to Year 4 will be attending a concert in the Big Shed at the Primary School next Thursday, March 3rd at 11.00am. Families are invited to attend.

Who are the Mik Maks? They have just performed on Australia’s Got Talent. The Mik Maks are Australia’s newest and fastest growing independent children’s act. Brothers Brian, Joel, Alan and Dean McInnes have enormous fun performing their quirky songs for children and adults. The band also boasts the world’s best drumming Panda ‘Drums the Panda.’ They write and perform their own songs that focus on engaging children through colour, actions and movement.

The boys have graced the stage a some of Victoria’s biggest festivals and family events including St Kilda Festival and Warrnambool Fun4Kids festival.

Icecream Containers including lids: Mrs Hogan and the Grade 5 & 6 class are looking for ice-cream containers. Please include the lid. Please drop them at the school or sent with your children.

Portsea Camp: The St. Arnaud Rotary Club are organising this camp. It is to be held on Wednesday 30th of March to Tuesday April 5th. This camp is for children aged 9 – 12 years. The cost is $327.00.

If interested in your child attending please come to the Office for an application and medical form or telephone to have one sent home with your child.

The application and medical form are to be posted to Mr. Garry Brown, Youth Director, St. Arnaud Rotary Club, PO Box 34 St. Arnaud 3478. Payments for the camp are to also be sent to St. Arnaud Rotary Club.

Camps, Sports, and Excursion Fund: Please return them as soon as possible, if possible by Monday, February 29th

St. Mary’s Parish Donald, Sunday February 28th
The Third Sunday of Lent.

Mass at 8.30am.
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 22nd to Friday, March 4th – Bicket and Birch families.

Working Bee: The annual working bee will be held on Sunday, March 6th from 9.00 am 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.

One of the key messages from BounceBack program is that being able to name our feelings and know how to manage our strong feelings, so that they don’t take us over, helps us to get along with others.

For example if we know we are feeling angry, then we also realise we need to calm ourselves and speak up for ourselves in a calm but strong way. For example if we can correctly name what we are feeling as ‘disappointment’ rather than ‘anger,’ then we realise that it is not helpful to feel so upset and it becomes easier to calm down.

Ideas from the BounceBack program for Parents.

Sometimes children make a mistake about how strong their feeling is – for example they say they are really angry or furious when they are just annoyed. Help them to use more low key language like ‘cross’ instead of ‘furious’.

‘Bringing Up Great Kids’- A Program for Parents.

St Mary’s and Centacare will be offering this free program for parents over two Thursday mornings, April 21st and 28th, in the Multi-purpose Room at school. The program has been developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation and the sessions are an informal mix of information and discussion. Some of the topics that the sessions cover are information about children’s brain development and how to meet their growing needs, considering the meaning behind children’s behaviour and building the parent - child relationship.

The program will be advertised over the next few weeks, but, to get an idea of interest, if at this stage you feel you would like to come along, please drop me a text or email, on 0409 598 481 or at Anne.Boadle@centacareballarat.org.au

Anne Boadle
Pastoral Care Worker.

Fruit On Friday: For several years Mrs. Judy Chapman has kindly cut up the fruit which the students eat on Friday. Judy has now finished at St. Mary’s.
Any family who would be willing to cut up the fruit on a Friday morning please contact the school.
Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Donald Netball Club: Any Grade 5 or 6 girls who would like to play Junior netball this season, Under 13’s, are asked to put their name down either by filling in the sheet in the School Office or Donald Newsagency by Monday, February 29th.

Annual Vintage Machinery Rally: The 49th Annual Rally will be held over the Easter Weekend 26th to 28th March at Wheatlands Warracknabeal. Attached is the colouring competitions and details of construction competitions. Prizes available.
Parents & Friends News

Coffee at Woods St Cafe - this Friday 26th February - after assembly.
There is an open invitation for all parents to have a coffee and catch up at the Woods St Cafe, straight after Assembly. Hope to see you all there.

P&F Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 8 March, 7.00pm Multi-purpose room.
Please note the change of date for the St. Mary's Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting. Scheduling clashes meant we have brought the meeting forward by one week. Everyone is encouraged to attend. AGM will be followed by an ordinary monthly meeting.

St. Mary’s Book Club Film Night Friday 15 April, 7pm.
Film night will be held in the first week of next term, on Friday 15th April. Starting at 7.00pm in the Multi-purpose room, BYO drinks, nibbles and bean bag. Come along for a quiet night out as we watch the film adaptation of the book 'Finding Fish' by Antwone Fisher. Haven't read the book? Come along anyway and bring a friend, everyone's welcome. If you'd like to read 'Finding Fish' but are unable to access a copy please let Candece know 0400 709 981.

Working with Children's Check Session TBA
We will be holding a session during school hours, sometime over the next few weeks to assist volunteers wanting to apply for a working with children's check. Shane O'Shea of the Buloke Times will be ready to take passport photos on the day. More information can be found about a working with children's check online at: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

Upcoming Fundraiser: Pie Drive at the start of Term Two.
Pie Drive forms sent home end of Term One.

Candece Jay – President of P & F

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St. Mary’s Lunch Order - Friday, March 4th

Due back with payment – Wednesday, March 2nd

Family Name: _________________________________

Friday, March 2nd  Please use a separate column for each child’s order.

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<th>Helpers</th>
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<td>Pizza</td>
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<td>Dim Sim</td>
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<td>Frozen Yogurt (on a stick)</td>
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<td>Quelch / Zooper Dooper</td>
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