**ANZAC Day:** On Monday Noah and Daniel Slater, our School Leaders represented St. Mary’s. They read a thought provoking poem clearly and respectfully. Thank you to Mary for her support of the students.

**Cross Country Report:** Carling McEvoy
Congratulations to each and every student who participated in the cross country events last Friday.
It was spectacular to see the effort given by the children and very heartening to see the improvement that individuals have been able to achieve since we began training. Motivation is not always as easy in individual sport, but it was certainly apparent on Friday – Well done!
Thank you to those parents Ali Bellevile, Pam Mellings, Candece Smith, Fran Berry, Kirby Richmond-Davis, Karla Griffiths and Angelique Donnellon who stood at checkpoints and assisted at the finish line. These events do not happen without the support of volunteers. As always your assistance is greatly appreciated by staff and students alike.
Congratulations to the seven students, Noah Slater, Simon Morgan, George Morgan, Jessica Mellings, Zac Griffiths, Nicholas Belleville and Erika Bicket who have qualified for the next stage and will compete next Tuesday, May 3rd in St. Arnaud. We wish them all the best.
Thank you Carling for your organisation of the Cross Country.

**St. Mary’s Parish Donald, Sunday April 24th**
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Mass will be celebrated at 8.30am
May is National Family Reading Month: Attached to the Newsletter is a reading log. Students are asked to note the time they read each day for May and total their score at the end of the month. Families are asked to consider focusing on reading this month. Parents! Did you know? One of the top three predictors of reading frequency among kids aged 6 – 11 years is parental encouragement of reading for fun.

Working With Children’s: All volunteers and any person working on School Grounds when students are present require a Working With Children check. Many parents have this card owing to them volunteering at sporting clubs or through their work. Some parents may also have a VIT card (Victorian Institute of Teaching card) owing to their qualifications.

Could parents with this card please send a copy or bring it to the Office to be copied to meet these requirements when volunteering at the school.

Parents without a Working With Children card or equivalent and are willing to obtain one will be provided with information regarding this on next week’s Newsletter. This card is free and must be applied for on line.

Apologies for the inconvenience but this is a legal requirement for all schools and many other clubs. Anne Anderson

Enhancing Catholic School Culture Survey: Each family will have received an envelope with information regarding this survey. Every three years schools are asked to complete the survey to assist with the school to better understand how our Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice. The survey is on-line and needs to be completed by Friday May 13th. The survey is completed by all staff, Grade 5 & 6 students, School Advisory Council members and as many families as possible. The survey takes about 45 minutes to complete and can be done over several days. Many thanks to families who are willing to complete it. Thank you to families who have completed it.

Bringing Up Great Kids: Today the second session of this program was held. Many thanks to Anne Boadle for providing this opportunity to families and to the families who attended.

Principal Awards: Congratulations to Jacob Donnellon and Finn Molloy-Drum for your work this week.

Maintenance: Monday May 2nd – Friday, May 13th
Frank and Griffiths Families

Pie Drive THIRD BAKE: A reminder to the families below that pie orders are due back tomorrow, Friday, April 29th, and the pies will be delivered next Thursday, May 5th. They can be picked up from the Multipurpose Room from 2.30 onwards. If you haven’t placed an order yet and wish to do so please have your forms in tomorrow. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Candece.

2016 Mother's Day Classic This fundraising event to assist breast cancer and to raise awareness of this cancer will be held on Sunday, May 8th at the Donald Racecourse. Participant’s may walk or run.
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 the Bounce Back class activities will involve the children in considering problems that can happen with friendships. The key messages in this part of the topic, include that all friendships have the occasional problem that needs to be sorted out; that nobody can ever be a perfect friend, so even a very good friend might sometimes disappoint us; that sometimes friendships can start to fade, but it doesn’t mean that you are an unlikeable person and you can make new friends.

Ideas from the Bounce Back program for parents.
One of the skills that helps friendships is being able to negotiate. Parents can help children to learn this skill, by negotiating with them when there is an opportunity. Look for a way in which they can obtain some of what they want, but you also get a lot of what you want, because you are still the boss!

Parents & Friends News
Pie Drive: Pie drive forms for families allocated the THIRD BAKE are due back tomorrow April 29 - Berry, Birch, Burke, Clapham (Tahlia), Mellings, Menhennett and Spencer. Pies from the THIRD BAKE will be available for pick-up from 2.30pm next Thursday, May 5th.

Pies ordered in BAKE TWO last week are due for pick-up TODAY, Thursday, April 28th in the Multi-purpose room.
Meals On Wheels: A huge thank you to those who volunteered for this week’s Meals on Wheels deliveries. We were unable to accommodate everyone’s preferred day but truly appreciate the offers of help regardless.

Working with Children Certificate Session, after school assembly Friday April 29th.
Help is available for anyone interested in obtaining their working with children certificate. Instead of the usual morning tea at the cafe, we invite parents to stay at school for assistance with the application process. More information on the certificate can be found online at: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

St Mary’s Weekly Tuck Shop Order
Due back with payment – Wednesday 4th May

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<tr>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>Tuck Shop Order</th>
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<td>Please use a separate column for each child’s order</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, May 6th</th>
<th>Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade:</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpers: Karla Griffiths and</th>
<th>Pizza</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dim sim</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frozen Yoghurt (on a stick)</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quelch/ Zooper Dooper</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
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Congratulations and good luck Nicholas Belleville, George Morgan, Zac Griffiths, Simon Morgan, Jessica Melliings, Noah Slater and Erika Bicket on qualifying for the Black Ranges Cross Country to be held in St. Arnaud on Tuesday, May 3rd.