End of Year Mass:
On Monday evening Fr. Eugene celebrated mass for the school community. At Mass the focus was on giving thanks for the many gifts received during 2016, acknowledging the Grade six students graduating and thanking the families leaving our school. After Mass the celebrations concluded with an early supper and sharing the delicious graduation cake.

Thanking and acknowledging Mrs. Wall’s years of work and passion in helping students master reading.

Happy retirement.

The MLA secretary Brian Brasier presented the ‘George Stebbins Literature Award’ to Mr Ian Rachinsky.

Thank-you to the Slater, Devine, McLachlan, Rachinsky, Leeder, Panares and Shiju families for your support of St. Mary’s students, staff and families.
Grandparents and Special Friends' Day:

On Tuesday morning the students hosted their grandparents, parents and special friends. The day commenced with a Christmas liturgy followed by students and their visitors completing some Christmas craft activities. The students shared their work prior to the Grandparents and Special friends enjoying a delicious morning tea.

Johnson Goodwin Visit:

Yesterday the students visited the residents at the Johnson Goodwin Village. The Grade 3 & 4 students told the Christmas story; the Grade 5 & 6 performed a song and percussion item with the song played on the piano by Zac Livingston. The whole school finished by singing an Aussie Christmas song.

The students presented each resident with a card and basket of lollies and wished them Merry Christmas.

Parents and Friends News:

Christmas Bingo - Thursday, December 15, eyes down at 7.30pm. The final and biggest bingo for the year. Come on out for the last chance to support the Bingo Club in 2016 and raise some money for our school.

Bring a friend or two and make a night of it. Hope to see you there.

Candece Jay
President of P&F
The Christmas Mass at St. Mary’s Donald will be held on Saturday, December 24th at 9.00pm.

**Let’s Read Donald - Pop Up Libraries to Come to Town!**

In an effort to bring more books to the community both the Donald Primary and St Mary’s Primary Schools are combining forces and planning to launch a number of Pop-Up libraries across the Donald Township.

Both schools are now sourcing new and donated books appropriate for pre-school and primary school aged children. Any books may be dropped into the school as there is a box in the Office Foyer. Donated books can also be left in the black tubs at both schools and at the Donald Newsagency.

**Pastoral Care Worker: Anne Boadle**

Works at St. Mary’s each Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm.

Contact Details: Through the school 5497 1116 or by ringing directly on 0409 598 481.

Email: Anne.Boadle@centacareballarat.org.au

**The Bounce Back! Program**

In our last session for this year we will be doing some activities that involve and remind us that sharing laughter and humour is healthy and fun. During the BounceBack sessions there has also been an emphasis on not using humour to embarrass, be hurtful or put someone down. One of the BounceBack messages is that funny ‘stirring’ is only funny and friendly, if the person on the receiving end is genuinely laughing, and really having fun as well, and that it is important to be aware of the signs and clues to how a person is really feeling.

To everyone, I wish a happy and safe Christmas and holiday period and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Anne Boadle
Pastoral Care Worker.
Principal’s Award:
Congratulations to Lyric Davis and John Clapham on their work in Mathematics.

Thank-you:
Thanks to the staff, parents and a big thank-you to all the St. Mary’s students for doing the right things at the crossing. I appreciated your big smiles and saying ‘hello’. Merry Christmas to you all.

Andrea (Lollypop Lady)

Purchasing School Uniforms:
The Clothes Bin will be ordering Summer School Uniform Dresses. Orders will need to be placed ASAP to ensure delivery for 2017. Please contact Sandra Harris 5497 1827 or email theclothesbin@bigpond.com to place your order. Also in stock at the Clothes Bin are red sport’s polo, navy sport’s windcheater, blue polo, maroon windcheaters and navy shorts.

Farewell Angel:
Thank-you to Angel for your friendship to all students and staff during your time at St. Mary’s. Congratulations on your hard work and progress. Wishing you and your family happiness and continued success in Melbourne.

Wishing all students and families a very happy Christmas and lots of family fun during the holidays.

Fr. Eugene, Mary, Andrea, Carling, Judy, Maree, Bernadette, Annette, Cathryn, Bernadette and Anne.

GRADE 6 CLASS 2017:
It's that time of year again! The Grade 5s have tried on rugby jumpers at school today so they should have some idea of their sizes needed for next year. The jumper and t-shirt sizes are very similar to their current uniform. If you are unsure could you, please arrange to try one of the current Grade 6 tops on to confirm. The rugby jumpers are supplied and t-shirts are around $40-$45 depending on the design. Please return the form below by no later than Friday the 16th of December, 2016.

Student's Name: ________________________________________________________

Rugby Jumper Size: ______

T-Shirt Size: _______ Quantity: ___________

Parent Signature: ________________________________________