Dear St Mary of the Cross Families,

It has been a very busy week at SMOC this week, with our getting to know you chats on Monday and Wednesday and our Beginning of School Year mass and BBQ on Thursday night. Thank you to everyone who attended those events. We hope that you enjoyed the Mass and BBQ – it was wonderful to see so many of our families taking the opportunity to get to know each other.

At school this week the teachers have been busy testing children in literacy and numeracy skills. These are standard tests that we use each year to measure progress and determine where the children are at with their learning.

The Teachers have also worked with Dr Jeni Wilson from Melbourne University this week to further their knowledge in the inquiry approach to learning. Jeni will continue to work with the staff over the coming months, assisting them in developing and refining diverse learning opportunities for the children.

In the coming week, our Board of Management meets on Wednesday evening. They will be discussing the IT policies that we will be implementing throughout the school prior to our iPad program which will launch for 2015. Once the policies are drafted, parents will be invited to comment on them.

A special thank you to the following parents for assisting us at SMOC:

Brett Parker (Ethan) For putting together our new picnic tables and chairs and installing our bike and scooter racks (Paid for by the Parents and Friends in 2014)

Peter Dalianis (Sienna & Olivia) For cleaning our carpets over the Christmas holidays.

Student Absence

If you need to report that your student is absent from school you can do so by sending a text message to the following school mobile number.
**Coming Up Next Week:**

**Tuesday:**  
Shrove Tuesday – pancakes for the children for morning tea!  
Did you receive the email about this?

**Wednesday:**  
Ash Wednesday – we will be having mass on Wednesday Morning at 10.30am  
all family members welcome.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Could all parents please make sure they put their child’s name on all items of clothing. It has been brought to our attention that a number of children’s hats and jumpers are not labelled. It makes it very difficult for staff to return these items without names. Here is a really useful link.

[http://www.icanyouknow.co.uk/parents/stop-losing-things-at-school.html](http://www.icanyouknow.co.uk/parents/stop-losing-things-at-school.html)

**SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE DAY!**

On Tuesday, 17th February Leon and Brendan will be making Pancakes with the children to mark Shrove Tuesday. This will be an extra morning snack and students will still need to bring their snacks and lunch.

The pancakes will consist of the following ingredients:

- Flour
- Milk
- Eggs
- Sugar

Could you please let your classroom teacher know if your child is unable to have pancakes on Tuesday, could you also please let the teacher know if there is an alternative item that your child may be able to have.

**PARISH NEWS**

**Tuesday 17th. February**

**SHROVE TUESDAY 7:00pm.**  
The burning of the palm Branches.

We gather in the garden of the Parish House where we will have a short prayer service and burn the palm branches for Ash Wednesday ceremonies followed by supper.  
Coffee and tea provided.  
Please bring a plate to share.

**Wednesday 18th. February 2015**

**Mass Times:**  
9:15am  Queen of Peace  
9:15am  St. Martin de Porres  
10:30am  St. Mary of the Cross  
11:30am  Stella Maris  
11:30am  Lumen Christi  
7:00pm  Queen of Peace

**Stations of the Cross**  
Friday evenings at 7:00pm Queen of Peace

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- Every Saturday morning @ 10:00am-10:30pm @ Q of P  
- Second Rite Tuesday 24th. March @ 7:00pm @ St. Martin’s  
- Second Rite Wednesday 25th. March @ 7:00pm @ Q of P