Dear Parents,
Welcome back to all our families and to our new families, a very warm welcome to St. Mary’s community! It has been lovely catching up with all the children and parent news. In spite of the wet weather, it has been another lovely start to the year with our very happy and enthusiastic community.

Our new Prep children have been so settled and are doing an outstanding job at settling in to their new role of being great St Mary’s people! Congratulations and thanks must go to all their parents, Miss Davina Bernau, Miss Tara Riddiford, Mrs Meegan Huggins, Mrs Kerryn Borrelli and other staff members who have been assisting, for preparing the children so well. As well as our new prep children and their families, we also welcome other children and families who have joined us this year: Jude (1/2U), Holly (1/2H) and Sienna (3/4F), Tilly (1/2F) and Willow (3/4F), Xavier (3/4R), Mia (3/4N) and Carissa (5/6S). We wish all our new children and their families a very happy and rewarding association with St Mary’s community.

We also extend our warm welcome to our new staff members, Mrs Mary Rose who is teaching in 3/4 and Mrs Sue Henri, an educational support officer.

Our thoughts, prayers and love continue to be with two of our staff members who have recently lost a parent: Mr John Nelsson (3/4N), whose mother died just before the end of the school year, and Mrs Jenny Foley (3/4F), whose father died on January, 16th. Our sympathies are also extended to their families during this sad time.

Information Evening for this school year will be held this Thursday, 4th February for all grades. All classrooms will be open at 6.30pm for half an hour for visits, before a combined information session at 7.00pm in the hall. Immediately following the combined information session, a Sacramental Information and Enrolment session will be held at 7.45pm. This will allow anyone whose child will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, or those who are just interested in finding out a little more about the sacraments, to attend without having to come out on another night.

School Closure Days – 25th and 26th February In this fourth year of our ongoing School Improvement cycle, our school will prepare a new School Improvement Plan to describe our goals, intended outcomes and identified targets for the next four years. A component to assist schools in this process, is an external review whereby a report is prepared that will focus on both the achievements since our last review and the goals and targets which we will focus on for the coming years, to ensure an ongoing improvement in student outcomes. To enable all staff members to engage in this process, it will be necessary that two of our school closure days are taken this term, Thursday 25th and Friday 26th February. Opportunities for community input will be provided at a later date.
Although the weather has been wet and cooler of late, the Summer season is well and truly upon us and it is necessary to remind you that OUR SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON A CODE RED DAY. This means that if a CODE RED day is forecast in our area, you can assume that our school will not be opened. On other days of extreme fire danger, it is up to you to put your own family’s fire plan into action and this will determine whether your child comes to school for either a full or part day. It is also important that you keep your personal and work numbers up to date and ensure that your mobile numbers are correct, so that we may contact you if necessary. Please note the information regarding these procedures further in the newsletter.

And lastly, just a reminder to please be aware that, during these first early days for our preps, parking may be a little more limited so you may wish to stagger your pick up time a little more.

With my prayers and best wishes for the coming week,
Mrs Lynne O’Meara   Principal

It is the beginning of a new journey, a journey made new not only by the beginning of this new school year, but made new by the presence we bring to it, a journey that for reasons unknown to us, God has chosen us to share. We welcome everyone and pray that they find support, friendship and warmth. Let us be aware of all that unites us, while at the same time, honouring the diversity among us. Let us pray that we will support and strengthen each other, as companions on a journey towards a common vision and purpose that will unite us and empower us, for the good of all God’s people.

Loving God, we come together at the beginning of this year as a faith-filled community, ready and willing to celebrate all the blessings that we have been given. We pray that we may look to you as our model and guide so that we may bring the Kingdom of God to this community.

Amen
What's Coming Up?

Week Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 1st February</td>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 3rd February</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 4th February</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>1/2 Township excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Information Evening – Open classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>- Gather in the hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sacramental Information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Week Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 8th February</td>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 10th February</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday – whole school Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Closure Days for 2016

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th February – School Improvement Review
Monday 14th March – Labour Day
Thursday 5th & Friday 6th May – Staff Professional Development
Monday, 13th June – Queen’s Birthday
Monday, 30th October (Day before Cup Day) – Reporting

For Your Forward Planning

What’s Coming Up?

Thursday, 4th February, Information Evening
Wednesday, 10th February – Ash Wednesday
Monday, 15th February – P & F AGM
Thursday 25th and Friday 26th February – School Closure Day
2nd – 4th March – Year 6 Camp & Year 5 Bike Ed
8th March – School Photos
16th March – First Reconciliation
22nd March – House Sports Day
23rd March – Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday, 24th March 2.30pm – End Term 1

2016 FEE INCREASE NOTICE

2016 annual family fee will stay the same at $990.00 the student levy will increase slightly to $245.00 per child.

School fees include course and subject levies, and the costs of all curriculum excursions and activities. School Fee Statements will be issued at the commencement of the school year on 3rd February 2016 with payment schedules and forms for direct debits. Reminder Statements will be issued at the beginning of each term for your information.

To pre pay fees or set up your own payment schedule through your internet banking, please include your eldest child’s name as the reference.

St Mary’s BSB/ACCOUNT Details
St Marys Primary School
BSB 083-347
Account Number 676054930

Fees and levies will be billed and sent home along with payment plan options via your child next week.
School Procedures for the Bushfire Season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and SMS message. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- All bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and checking our website.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
Uniforms

All St. Mary’s students are required to wear the full correct school uniform. We believe that the wearing of uniforms promotes the children’s pride in their school and self-discipline. Uniform items can be purchased or made at little cost. The uniform shop at St. Mary’s carries all uniform items, including school and library bags. There is a small amount of second hand uniforms available in the shop.

Children are expected to have a school bag with the St Mary’s School logo.

Please ensure that your children bring their correct school bag.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Summer Uniform</th>
<th>Boys’ Summer Uniform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s uniform school dress</td>
<td>Navy Shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of dresses and tunics should not be above the knee</td>
<td>(no jeans, jean style or cargo pants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy socks</td>
<td>Navy socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black polished shoes</td>
<td>Black polished shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(no sneakers/runners)</td>
<td>(no sneakers/runners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School hat</td>
<td>School hat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Summer Sports Uniform</th>
<th>Boys’ Summer Sports Uniform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navy track suit pants</td>
<td>Navy track suit pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
<td>St Mary’s windcheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy unisex sports shorts or navy skort</td>
<td>Navy unisex sports shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
<td>St Mary’s polo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White St. Mary’s sports socks or plain white socks and runners</td>
<td>White St. Mary’s sports socks or plain white socks and runners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School hat</td>
<td>School hat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure that all items of uniform are well maintained, including sports uniform and hats.

St Mary’s School logo school bag
No jewellery – plain studs, sleepers, watches excepted.
No make-up
No extremes of hairstyles
Long hair to be tied back at all times with navy ties and ribbons
No nail polish

An important note on Uniforms. Whilst it is not compulsory to purchase uniform items only from our uniform shop, we trust that parents will only purchase items that are of the same as sold in the shop. We would ask that you continue to support us as we strive to ensure a disciplined atmosphere in our school, by ensuring that your children do wear the standardised uniform.

Your children may, at times, tell you that it is okay because, “others do it” or “have it”, but this is a good signal that it is NOT okay!

A note about hair. As we are a primary school, we feel that any change of colour is inappropriate for children. In the spirit of our practice at St Mary’s, to keep children as children, we ask that you cooperate with this and leave the hair colouring as something that they can look forward to in their older age. We also differentiate between “weekend hair” and “school hair”. The use of hair gel, etc., and styling, is considered to be a “weekend hair” practice. There is also the problem of styling hair so that it will fall over the child’s eyes or face when they lean forward, e.g., long fringes or strands being left out of ties. This then becomes a distraction when they are writing or reading. If we can all work together on this then not only does it assist in their learning and give a more disciplined and uniformed approach, but it will also save you time and money!
**ST MARY’S NEWS**

**UNIFORM SHOP ASSISTANTS**
Volunteers required for Uniform Shop on Thursday mornings 8.30 – 9.00am and Tuesday afternoons 3.00pm - 3.30pm
If you can assist, please leave your name at the office.

**WANDIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB REGISTRATION DAY**
Sunday February 14th 10-12pm
Wandin Football Oval Club rooms
A family friendly club welcoming registrations for Auskick, U/9's, 10's, 12's, 14's & 16's.

**COFFEE INVITATION**
For all St Mary’s parents every Monday morning
At St Mary’s from 9.00am until 10.00am
A great way to meet new families
ALL WELCOME!

**NO TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK**

**SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Preps Only</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 29th January – Thursday, 24th March</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**All other Students**
Thursday 28th January – Thursday, 24th March
*Easter 25th – 28th March*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 11th April – Friday, 24th June</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 11th July – Friday, 16th September</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 3rd October – Friday, 16th December</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**HELP NEEDED! HELP NEEDED!**
A mum from St Mary’s living in Seville East is unable to drive to school due to a serious injury. Is anyone able to lend assistance to transporting Jarawan Lewis of 3/4R to school on an adhoc basis? If you are able to assist please contact Helen on 0408 177 849. Thankyou Everyone!

**SEVILLE NETBALL CLUB ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING**
Players of all ages – Under 9s thru to Opens – For their winter season
New players most welcome

**REGISTRATION NIGHT**
Wednesday 27th January, 4-6pm
Lot 2, 357 Warburton Highway, Wandin

**SEASON COMMENCES ON SATURDAY 5TH MARCH WITH ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AT**
Pinks Reserve Netball Complex, Kilsyth
Training Wednesday nights at the Seville Netball Courts

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY**

Please contact Sue Lennie if you have any queries – Ph. 0438 709 772 or 5964 3514
Or email sevillenc@outlook.com

**SEVILLE**

**Start the New Year Full of Confidence**
Children’s Karate
www.edgemartialarts.com.au
Mt Evelyn, Chirnside Park, Monbulk, Woori Yallock
9736-2919 Try Two Weeks FREE!
Religious Education News

Welcome back to a new school year, 2016.

Sunday, 31 Jan 2016: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
Lk 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews. Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. ‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away. The Gospel of the Lord

Can you think of someone you know who has the courage to stand up for others?
What sort of things would they stand up for?
Sometimes people are not liked when they stand up for others or for something that is right. Jesus wasn’t liked in his hometown. Why do you think this happens?
What can we do next time someone speaks up for others or for what is the right thing to do?

Other news in Religious Education:
- Thursday 4th February at 7.45pm, (following the information session) a short meeting regarding sacramental programs will take place in the hall. Forms for enrolment in First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, will be available after the meeting and will need to be returned to school by Monday February 18th.

- On Wednesday 10th February at 9.15am we will celebrate a whole school Mass in the church for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.
NOMINATIONS FOR THE INCOMING 2016 COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15th February @ 2.00pm 2016
ALL WELCOME

Please find the nomination forms in the newsletter and fill in which position you would be interested in helping with. All positions are available. We have listed the positions below for you to consider.

Please return your completed form to the office as soon as possible.

President - Vice-president – Treasurer – Banking - Secretary of minutes Tuckshop co-ordinators (4 people) – Tuckshop Rosters - Uniform shop co-ordinator - Uniform shop assistants (4 people) – Special Food Day (3 times a year)
- Stalls (2 to 4 people) - Food Bank co-ordinator – Fundraising committees (disco, trivia night, field day chocolate drive etc)
- General Committee Member

PLEASE COMPLETE NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I, __________________________________________________________ wish to nominate

(Your name)

(Name of person you are nominating / self)

For the position of ____________________________________________

(Position you are nominating them / self for)

Signature __________________________. Date: ____________.

(Of person agreeing to be nominated if unable to be present at the meeting)

Signature __________________________. Date: ____________.

(Your signature)

Please return this slip to the school office by 15th February 2016

Help Urgently Required

This year we have collected only 21 responses to our requests for tuckshop help.
We need to roster 6 people per week to run the St Mary’s tuckshop. We have not received enough volunteers to be able to effectively do this, this year.
If you have not put your form in, please do so ASAP.
If we do not receive more responses, we will not be able to run tuckshop in term 2. If we don’t get the volunteers required we will be unable to offer tuckshop in the future. Please commit by filling out the below form.

PLEASE COMPLETE 2016 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

The St Mary’s Primary School Canteen operates every Friday between 9.00am – 1.00pm. Volunteers are needed to help run the canteen. If you are able to help, please fill out the attached form and return to school office ASAP.

NAME __________________________ PHONE ______________ EMAIL __________________________

ELDEST CHILD AND GRADE ______________________________________________________________

Availability (please tick)

☐ WEEKLY ☐ FORTNIGHTLY ☐ MONTHLY

☐ EMERGENCY ☐ CO-ORDINATOR ☐ OTHER __________________________

Thankyou Parents & Friends Committee
2016 Registration Form for Basketball - Season 1 – 2016

Any child interested in playing After School Basketball in Season 1 (commences early February 2016) will need to fill out the following form and return it to the school office by ASAP.

CURRENT PLAYERS: If you are currently playing After School Basketball in Season 2 2016, you will still need to fill out the following form so I can format the new teams. Games start at 4pm and finish at 7pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons at Kilsyth or Lilydale Basketball Stadiums.

- Monday: Grade 4 - Grade 6 Boys
- Tuesday: Grade 3 Boys
- Thursday: Grade 3 - Grade 6 Girls
- Friday: Grade 2 Boys & Girls

Name__________________________ Age 2016______ Class 2016______

Are you currently playing After School Basketball? Yes No (please circle)

Have you played competition basketball before? Yes No (please circle)

Parents Name__________________________________________________________________

Home No_________________________ Mobile_____________________

Email Address_________________________________________________________________

Are you able to help as : Coach Yes/No Team Manager Yes/No

NOTE: If you are currently playing After School Basketball and do not want to continue in 2016, could you please return your washed basketball singlet top to the office in a bag, clearly marked with your name and class on it. You will then be eligible for your refund.

2016 BASKETBALL CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED
FOR ALL QUERIES PLEASE CALL LIZ RHODES
ON 0414 761 088

St Mary's Basketball Singlet Tops

Children playing in the after school basketball competition are to wear navy blue shorts (the shorts you wear for PE at school are perfect), runners and the St Mary's Basketball Singlet Top. Tops are $25.00 to hire, however, once your child returns the top back to school they will receive a $20.00 refund. Payment can be made by cash or cheque. Cheques need to be made out to "St Mary's Parents and Friends Committee"

Children playing the after school basketball competition are to wear navy blue shorts (the shorts you wear for PE at school are perfect), runners and the St Mary's Basketball Singlet Top. Tops are $25.00 to hire, however, once your child returns the top back to school they will receive a $20.00 refund. Payment can be made by cash or cheque. Cheques need to be made out to "St Mary's Parents and Friends Committee"

St Mary's Basketball Singlet Tops

Players name:_____________________________________________ Year Level:_____________________
Class:__________________________ Mum's name:__________________________ Dad's name:__________________________
Mum's mobile:______________________ Dad's mobile:______________________

Amount enclosed:

If you already have a basketball top, please fill out below.
Number__________________________ Size________________________

Office use:
Top number given:______________________ Amount enclosed:______________________
Cash Yes/No Cheque details______________________
Date top given:______________________ Date top returned:______________________
Date refund of $20.00 returned:______________________

TO ALL TEAM MEMBERS
NO FORM NO PLAY

2016 BASKETBALL CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED
FOR ALL QUERIES PLEASE CALL LIZ RHODES
ON 0414 761 088

St Mary's Basketball Singlet Tops

Players name:_____________________________________________ Year Level:_____________________
Class:__________________________ Mum's name:__________________________ Dad's name:__________________________
Mum's mobile:______________________ Dad's mobile:______________________

Amount enclosed:

If you already have a basketball top, please fill out below.
Number__________________________ Size________________________

Office use:
Top number given:______________________ Amount enclosed:______________________
Cash Yes/No Cheque details______________________
Date top given:______________________ Date top returned:______________________
Date refund of $20.00 returned:______________________
Make this year your child’s best ever at school

A new school year means a clean slate for students. Here are 7 ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time**
   One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well**
   A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits**
   The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep**
   Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Insist kids exercise**
   The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. **Focus on being friendly**
   Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Yet we often only focus on academic learning. There are strong links between social success, and academic success and wellbeing. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant; to be friendly; to be sensitive to others; to be involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers. These are all characteristics of socially successful kids. At the same time discourage anti-social behaviours such as over-competitiveness, self-centredness and lack of sharing.

7. **Develop self-help skills**
   Successful students are often well-organised, self-directed and self-motivated. Personal organisation seems to come more naturally to girls than boys, however both genders benefit from coaching in this important area. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to really focus on and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au