Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Thank you to the many parents who attended our Parent Information night on Monday. Your support and contribution is very much appreciated as we journey the education journey together. Thank you also to staff that spent time preparing and presenting information to you on the night.

Please remember that I am always more than happy to assist with any queries, concerns and ideas or just to be a listening ear. You are always welcome to contact me by phone at school or call in for a chat. If you would like to use e-mail to make a suitable time that would be great, otherwise ring the front office to check my diary. The door is always open!

Thanks for a great week!

God bless you 😊

Jo-Anne

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. Project Compassion flyer

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**FEBRUARY**
- Sun 14th: Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year @ 10.30am
- Thurs 18th: Sacramental parent meeting @ 7.00pm – NB change of date
- Mon 22nd: Hockey clinic Grades 1 – 4
- Wed 24th: Pupil free day – Staff PD – Numeracy
- Thurs 25th: Gr 5/6 Mass @ 10.00am
- Mon 29th & Tues 1st: Learning Conversations

**MARCH**
- Tues 1st: Golf clinic Grades 3 – 6
- Wed 2nd: School Advisory Council @ 7.00pm
- Thurs 3rd: Gr 3/4 Mass @ 10.00am
- Fri 4th: Ride to School Day
- Mon 7th: School Athletics
- Thurs 10th: P/1/2 Mass @ 10.00am
- Fri 11th: Reconciliation workshop (Sacramental Program) @ Dunworth Centre
- PSG meetings
- Mon 14th: Public holiday

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**PRAYER FOR LENT**

May the Spirit who guided Jesus
to a life of self-sacrifice, self-giving and love
inspire us to follow in his footsteps.
Lord send us your Spirit to help us walk the journey of Lent
with honesty, faithfulness, generosity and love.
Help us to renew our belief in you and to show this
by our efforts to talk with you in prayer,
to turn away from sin
and to care for those in need.
Amen
Prayers
Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the Knight (Jesse Gr 1) and Baker (Will Gr 2) families following the recent deaths of their grandmother and great-grandmother respectively. Prayers also for Phoebe Broadwood (past student) on the death of her mother, Lisa, last week and for Debbie Hadden and her family on the death of her father this week.

Pupil Free Day
A reminder that Wednesday 24th February is a pupil free day for all students. Students do not attend school on this day.

School Mass
A reminder about our school mass this Sunday at St Mary’s Church starting at 10.30am.
As a Catholic community it is fitting that we begin our school year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. In doing so we are able to give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with.
- All students are expected to attend our whole school mass and be actively involved in the celebration. Our mass to mark the new school year will be held on Sunday 14th February at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church.
- Students are required to wear their correct school summer uniform and sit with their class during the mass.
- Student leaders will be presented with their badges during mass.
- Could all students please arrive at the Church no later than 10.20am and assemble in the Gathering Space with their classroom teacher.
- Following mass there is a cuppa as per the Parish roster. Please bring a plate of morning tea to share.

Skoolbag App
Our Skoolbag app is available for download to Apple and android devices! Search for ‘St Mary’s Hamilton’ in your app store. This app is another way you can keep in touch with events, activities and information from school in order to support your children’s learning. If you would like more information or require assistance with this tool please contact the Office.

Learning Conversations
Our Learning Conversations (Parent/Teacher Interviews) are scheduled for Monday 29th February and Tuesday 1st March. There are timetables at the front office for you to indicate your preferred times for conversations with your child’s classroom teacher. If you can’t make it in to school please ring the office on 5551 9000 or send an e-mail to office@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au
Thanks for helping us make the Learning Conversations’ timetable more streamlined. We value this time with parents and carers, and wish to make them accessible to all families.
Please note that if you haven’t had a chance to nominate your preferred time by Wednesday 17th February we will slot you into the remaining time slots.

Visitors during the school day
It is great to see parents and carers visit school during the day to support the learning programs in the classrooms. Our Visitors Policy, which is implemented to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community, requires anyone coming into the school to report to the office on arrival and sign in before moving into the learning spaces.
- Parents and carers are not permitted to enter the learning area or the playground without following the correct procedure.
- If the Office is unattended please do not wander past without completing the visitors book.
- If you need to drop something off to your child during the day please leave the items at the office for staff to deliver at an appropriate time.
- Parents waiting to collect their children at the end of the day are asked not to wait in the Learning Street as this distracts students and hinders teachers in preparing students for dismissal.
Thanks for your co-operation and support of this policy.

Emergency Management Plan
Each term staff and students participate in an emergency drill (evacuations and lockdowns) as part of our management plan. Due to the recent threats to schools we have practised our evacuation procedures this week to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors in such a scenario.
FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE:
The Education Maintenance Allowance is no longer funded by the Government. However the Ballarat Diocese has maintained their commitment to continue the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The scheme offers a tuition fee concession to families who hold a current Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible. Families who qualify for the scheme will pay $520 per annum for primary school tuition fees. The discounted fee covers **tuition and capital fees only.** It does not cover additional charges such as camps, student fees and excursions. Please find attached a brochure which outlines the details of the scheme. An application form needs to be completed and are available at the office. **These forms, plus a copy of your current Centrelink card, must be received by Friday 19th February, 2016.** If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for Centrelink, please come and discuss this with Helen.

Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Applications forms are available at the office. Please return these forms, with a copy of your concession card. Completed forms must be returned by **Friday 19th February, 2016.** If you would like further information please see Helen in the office.

Prep News
Could parents please send along family photos (as requested in the class newsletter and mentioned at the Information Night), as soon as possible so we can begin working with them?

Also, Reading Group Parent Helper roster will be up on the whiteboard at our room to put names down if interested. (Working with Children Check required).

Thankyou, Erin

ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL HAMILTON

Applications are invited for a part-time Secretarial position. The position consists of 12.5 hours per week over two days: Tuesday and Friday. Hours are 8.30am – 3.45pm on each of these days. It is hoped that the successful applicant will begin on Tuesday 12th April, 2016.

Applicants are required to:
- be committed to Catholic Education and Parish life
- be willing to work as part of a motivated and productive school team
- be enthusiastic and motivated about working in a school setting to share gifts and talents
- have a current Working with Children card and National Police Record Check
- be friendly, warm, welcoming and flexible
- undertake secretarial duties such as: phone calls, dealing with correspondence (both incoming and outgoing), school newsletter and notes, ordering of supplies, day to day organisation.
- co-ordinate the school’s OH&S compliance requirements and processes
- be willing to undertake training related to administration systems

Applications should include a personal letter, current resume and current referees.

Appointment to the advertised position is subject to a successful Working with Children check and National Police Record Check.

Applications and enquiries should be forwarded to:
The Principal, Miss Jo-Anne Bond
St Mary’s Primary School
E-mail: principal@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au
E-mail applications preferred
PO Box 788
Hamilton 3300
Phone: 03 5551 9000
Website: www.smhamilton.catholic.edu.au
Closing date: **Friday 4th March, 2016**
The Sports Catch Up

Physical Education with Mr Ferguson

It has been a fantastic start to the year with the specialist PE lessons with Mr. Ferguson. During our first school week everyone had a great time participating in a variety of movement games which prepared us for a huge term of sport. We are now starting our Athletics Unit which will provide a perfect lead up to our Athletics Day on Monday, March 7th.

Morning Fitness

Morning Fitness also kicked off this week under some sensational morning sunshine. As well as the normal fitness based activities there will also be an Athletics focus going forward. Please feel free to come along on Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 8:55 – 9:10am to support your child!

School Athletics

Stretch your muscles, dust off your running shoes and get ready to be blown away at Pedrina Park! Our Athletics Day is being held on Monday 7th March! With this wonderful day just around the corner it is very important to remember that Together Everyone Achieves More. Our Athletics Day cannot happen without our magnificent school community coming together to actively support it. We would love for you to move around and watch your child/children participate. We will have a teacher based at each event and we are asking for helpers to assist move each age group around on the day. All we ask for is some assistance at the event you are watching, for example you may need to help bring the shot puts back or hold a measuring tape at the long jump, but you will get to watch your aspiring athlete compete at each event. Please see the attached Athletics Day Program to help you plan your day. If you are able to attend and cheer on your child/children please fill in the attached slip to indicate which time you are available and who you will be able to assist. Please return it to school by Friday 26th February. If you are willing to assist for the 7am set-up or be based at a specific event or the running track throughout the day please indicate this on the slip. We are looking forward to a brilliant day which brings our school community together! Please see the attached sheets for further details!

Division Swimming

Division Swimming is being held on Friday 10th March at Aquazone Warrnambool. We will be in contact with the students who have qualified for this event from our school swimming carnival in the next week.

Hockey Clinic

A hockey clinic will be held at school on Monday 22nd February for students in Grades 1-4.

Golf Clinic

A golf clinic will be held at school on Tuesday 1st March for students in Grades 3-6.

We are thoroughly looking forward to a wonderful year of sport at St Mary’s. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any sport related queries at school or email us at jferguson@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Thank you in advance for your terrific support this year!

Mr Ferguson and Miss Couchman

Link Up!

A strength of the St Mary’s Community is our ability to look after one another in times of need. On numerous occasions already this year Link Up has assisted families who have experienced loss, illness, sadness and celebration. A gentle knock on the door, friendly face and care package mean a great deal to those who have received assistance.
Thank you to those parents who have already generously provided food for our freezer: lasagne, quiche, cakes, slices, sausage rolls, soup, casseroles …

Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers. You can place it into the freezer in the multi-purpose room yourself, leave at the office or with Terrielynn or Jo-Anne.

We aim to be a community who demonstrates the values of compassion and hope. This is an important and practical way you can actively and positively contribute.

For more information, offers of assistance or to let us know of families who need assistance please call the office.

**Parents and Friends**

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Opening time – Wednesday 3.20 – 4.00pm

Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop on Wednesday afternoon or by placing an order with payment at the front office.

**CANTEEN**

There will be NO CANTEEN on Wednesday 17th February, 2016.

**Canteen Roster**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/2/16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/2/16</td>
<td>Canteen closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/2/16</td>
<td>Volunteer required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that if there are no parent volunteers there will be no lunch orders available on that day. If you would like to volunteer please put your name on the roster at the front office.

**Parish News**

**MASS TIMES – 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<td>Glenthompson:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penshurst:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macarthur:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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**ST MARY’S PARISH**

**2016 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

Parents of children who are ready to be fully initiated into the Catholic Community through the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist are invited to attend a meeting on:

**THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY**

in the DUNWORTH CENTRE at 7pm.

Full Details can be found on St Mary’s Parish Hamilton website. [www.stmaryshamilton.org.au](http://www.stmaryshamilton.org.au)

Enrolment forms are available; on the website, at the Parish Office or from St Mary’s School.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Hello, I hope everyone is settled into the school routine, which I know can be stressful for all concerned. In this commentary I intend to share information that I have come across that I hope may be of interest to you.

For this term I will be sharing “Ten Hints for Creating Resilient Families” by Andrew Fuller, you can check out his website which has lots of information [www.anderfuller.com.au](http://www.anderfuller.com.au)

Resilience is the happy knack of being able to bungy jump through life it allows you to bounce back from hard times.

No.1. **Promote Belonging**

The sense of belonging we have is the strongest antidote we know of for self-harm, depression and drug abuse and it’s built on our sense of belonging. Children are most resilient when they have three types of belonging:

a) A sense of being part of a family
b) Having different friendship’s to belong to
c) Having an adult outside their family who connects with them.

No. 2. **Have some mooch time.**

We live in a world that suffers from attention deficit disorder. We rush children from activity to activity, from lesson to lesson and from one organised event to another. Then we wonder why, when there is a lull that they say “I’m Bored”. Be a counter-revolutionary. Find some time each week just to be at home without anything structured happening. Quiet times allow children to develop creativity and ingenuity.

Don’t forget I am available to support you and your family not just your child.

Kind regards

Lisa Gonnet
0400994032

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY**

Our parish group meets each Wednesday at the parish house at 7.30pm. All welcome, especially newcomers.
**ST MARY’S BASKETBALL CLUB:**

St Mary’s Basketball Club is looking for new Children keen to play Basketball this year!!
Children must be turning 8 to be eligible to play.
Please email Secretary Cheryl Casey jennoc@hotmail.com Or call 0458567508.
Teams to be finalised Monday 8th February.

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**Music Lessons 2016**
Enrolments for music lessons at St Mary’s Primary are now being taken.
Lessons in Piano, Electric Keyboard, organ, Voice, recorder and Guitar.
For more information contact: Tara’s Music School on 55723409 or 0427723409

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**Enrolments Open for 2017**

Monivae invites potential 2017 Year 7 students and families to visit Monivae College Open Days
- Tuesday 21st February 9:15am
- Sunday 6th March 2pm
- Thursday 16th March 7pm

Please contact Registrar Mrs Meg Cook for further information (03) 5551 1245

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**want to get your kids into tennis?**

Professional tennis coaching will be available in Term 1 at The Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club with award winning coaches of Tennis Australia’s ANZ Tennis Hot Shots.
Children from 4 years can learn the game with modified courts, balls and racquets.
An extensive program will also be available for older beginners and accomplished players.
Interested? Call 5562 6539