God of love and liberty,
We bring our thanks today
for the peace and security we enjoy
and for those who laid down
their lives to defend them.
We remember those who,
in time of war,
faithfully served their country.
We pray for the families and for ourselves
whose freedom was won at such a cost.
Make us a people passionate for peace,
and hasten the day when nation
shall not lift up arms against nation.
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

This week our focus, besides the daily learning program, has been ANZAC Day and the monks of Tibet.

All students have had the opportunity to attend the opening ceremony of the monks’ program in the Chevalier Centre at Monivae and a variety of workshops and activities during the week. The students, besides being amazingly behaved, were enthralled by the monks and their work on the sand mandala. The interaction between the children and the monks was heart-warming and will build our students understanding, knowledge and tolerance of other cultures and faiths.

Students have also been thinking deeply about the commemoration of the first ANZAC Day and have expressed their thoughts in writing, discussion and Art work (the image above is of one hundred poppies placed in the roundabout – an Art class

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parish Family Dinner – Preps @ 6.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Cafe Chat @ 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Council AGM @ 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raising Teens 1.30 – 3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento Parent m’ing @ 7.00pm</td>
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**MAY**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>St Mary’s Cross Country Parish Family Dinner – Gr 4 @ 6.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Pupil free day – OLSEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 12 – Thurs 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NAPLAN – Gr 3 &amp; 5 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Expo Committee m’ing @ 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;F meeting @ 7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Council @ 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Fri 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Open Morning 9.30 – 11.00am</td>
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</table>
project by the Grade 5/6 students). Not only has the attention been on the historical events of the wars but also the importance of peace – something that opportunities such as our interaction with the monks of Tibet will help to grow in our young people.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you @
Jo-Anne

Uniform
All students are expected to be in full winter uniform by Monday 27th April.

Sacramental Program
A reminder that the next meeting for parents of children involved in this year’s Sacramental Program is next Thursday 30th April starting at 7.00pm at the Dunworth Centre. The focus of this meeting will be Confirmation. If you are unable to make this time please contact the Parish Office on 5571 1161.

Café Chat!
Thought I might try and make a regular time to sit and have a coffee and a chat with the parents and carers in our school. If you would like to join me and have a conversation about how these ‘Café Chats’ might work come along to the staff room on Tuesday 28th April between 9.00 – 10.00am.

Welcome
This week we have been pleased to welcome Grace Murphy to St Mary’s as she participates in the practical experience component of her teacher training. Grace is working with the Gr 1/2 team.

Meetings
Thank you to the parents and friends who attended the P&F AGM on Tuesday evening. Information from the meeting will be included in next week’s newsletter.
All members of the school community are invited to come along to the School Advisory Council AGM, to be held next Wednesday 29th April. This year there are no vacancies on the Council but it would be great if you are interested in coming along to the AGM at 7.00pm (takes less than an hour!)

Pupil Free Days
The following dates have been approved as professional learning days for staff.
Students do not attend school on these days:
- Monday 11th May
- Wednesday 29th July
- Monday 10th August

ANZAC Day
Our student leaders conducted our prayerful liturgy during assembly this afternoon.
Students are encouraged to attend the local services on Saturday 25th April with their families to show respect and appreciation to all who have served our country in times of war and peace. The Hamilton services are scheduled for 6.30am and 11.00am at the Cenotaph at Melville Oval with the march starting at 10.00am in Gray St. Our school captains, Ben Starkie and Ayva Jones will represent St Mary’s at the later service and lay a wreath as a symbol of our respect and appreciation.

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.
NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:
- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.
NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests.
Support can be arranged for students with disabilities, if the student regularly uses similar support for classroom assessment tasks.
Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal.
If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available at the school.
Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.
Please contact Jo-Anne or Chris Minney if you have any queries concerning this year’s NAPLAN program.
Punctuality
Punctuality, whilst an important life skill, is vital to assist good learning. The bell to indicate the start of learning time sounds at 8.55am. It is expected that all students have arrived in plenty of time so that instruction time is not lost during the most productive time of the day. Please support your children in being on time for school each day. (I do understand that at times there are circumstances which prevent this being achieved.) A reminder that if you drop your child at school after 8.55am you must sign them in at the office.

School Fees
School Fees have been sent home with today’s newsletter. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Helen at the office. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER
If you would like the newsletter e-mailed to you each week please send an e-mail request to Meg Cook mcook@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au The newsletter is also distributed through the Skoolbag app and can be found on the school website!

THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!
ANZAC mural created by students in Art class with Shelley Waters.

Students chatting with the Tibetan monks.

The Sport Catch Up

CROSS COUNTRY
Cross Country is almost here! Students in Grades 3-6 will compete in our school Cross Country to be held at Lake Hamilton on Friday, May 1st. We will travel by bus leaving from school at 12:15pm. Students in the 9 and 10 year age groups will run 2 kilometres, commencing from the beach area. The 11 and 12 year age groups run 3 kilometres, commencing from the grassed area past the tennis courts. Sports uniform is to be worn on this day. All students need to have their own water bottle. If your child suffers from asthma it is suggested that they carry their own Ventolin inhaler while running. We would love you to come and watch, but we ask that you park along Gray Street. This is to ensure the safety of the runners, so we do not have cars entering the area during the Cross Country.
We require a few helpers to assist on this day. People are needed at the finishing line. The race will commence at 12:30pm. If you are able to help, please send a note to Miss Couchman by Friday 24th April. Thank you for your support in advance!

Division Athletics
Division Athletics has been postponed from this week to a later date in September, possibly the 15th September, yet to be confirmed.

JUNIOR TENNIS PENNANT TERM 2
Junior Tennis @ The Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club Coaching all levels Tuesday nights Competition Wednesday 4-5.30pm Orange 7years+ green balls, 9 years+ yellow balls to more advanced students. Catering for all standards. Please contact info@warrnambooltennis.com.au or phone 55626539 to register. Get on board a great new opportunity in Hamilton!
Cybersafety

This week, as part of our Cybersafety information, we have included a link to a guide that goes through the platforms that children are most interested in. These include Minecraft, Instagram and Facebook. These guides can help you understand what your child may be doing online. These apps are constantly changing. Check back regularly for more updates.

Not sure how to access information with a QR code? Search your app store for a QR code reader – a free one will do. If you still require help let us know (or ask your child!!!)

Parents and Friends

LINK UP!

Unfortunately the Link Up freezer is looking empty at the moment. If any families would like to donate items to this important school community activity it would be greatly appreciated. If you could date and label these items and send them in to the freezer in the multi-purpose room. Please only use disposable containers. Thanks!

Uniform Shop

If anyone is interested in helping out with the view of taking over from Sally Finch as Uniform Shop co-ordinator could you please let Sally know. A big thank you to Sally for all her hard work.

Canteen Roster term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29/04</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13/05</td>
<td>Cathy Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/05</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer needed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/05</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer needed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/06</td>
<td>Cathy Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/06</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer needed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/06</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer needed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/06</td>
<td>Cathy Ferguson</td>
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As you can see above we are still in need of some parent helpers for the Canteen this term. If you are able to help on a Wednesday it would be greatly appreciated.

Parish News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Mass Times 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</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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<td>Penshurst:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<td>Macarthur:</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

When: Saturday 16th May at 7pm
Where: Maryknoll Centre
Cost: $4
RSVP: 0439 319 283 John and Sherrie Hockey
Snacks and drinks provided
CHOICE OF 2 FILMS!
Gr. 5 to Yr. 12

CROSS COUNTRY HELPER FORM

I am able to help at the school Cross Country on Friday, May 1st.

Name __________________________
Phone _____________________