Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,
Wow! This has surely been the busiest of weeks with staff report writing, the Melbourne Cup holiday, Rice Day and Mission Day, just to name a few of the events going on at St Mary’s this week. Aren’t we lucky to be involved in so many wonderful opportunities!

**Mission Day**
As I write, preparations for Mission Day are being finalised and our community is about to come together to share one of the most important days on our school calendar.

Yesterday’s RICE DAY was a very real way for the children to have a small experience of what it might be like to have little to eat. The children’s positivity toward this initiative is to be commended. We feel that this is a significant prelude to Mission Day and the work we do on this day to raise money for those in great need.

A huge thank you to our wonderful school and Parish community for their amazing support of Mission Day. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families!

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**GOD OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE...**
Let us look back with courage,
see the truth and speak it.
Let us look around with compassion,
see the cost and share it.
Let us look forward with hope,
see what can be done and create it.
Give us courage to face the truth,
Compassion to share the burden,
Strength to play our part in the healing,
And hope to walk forward
to a place of justice.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9th</td>
<td>Prep athletics afternoon!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10th</td>
<td>Prep Transition 9.00 – 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prep 2016 Information M’ing @ 7pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hooptime Regional – Seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th</td>
<td>Prep Transition 9.00am – 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>PSG meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24th – Wed 25th</td>
<td>Gr 6 Transition activity @ Monivae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>School Council @ 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>P/1/2 History Box incursion</td>
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**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5th</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS EXPO!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 8th</td>
<td>Whole school Transition Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 13th</td>
<td>End of School Year mass @ 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 15th</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16th &amp; Thurs 17th</td>
<td>Numeracy assessments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Junior Excitement!
The children in Prep, One and Two enjoyed a fantastic late stay and sleepover last Friday evening. Great fun was had by all! A huge thank you to the staff who made this event possible and who lay awake most of the night in the thunderstorm while every child slept soundly! Fascinating!

Remembrance Day
Each year on 11th November our community takes time to pause, remember and pay respect to those men and women who have fought and died in war protecting and preserving our country and its values. Staff and students from Gr 5/6 will attend a Remembrance Ceremony on Wednesday 11th at the community service at the cenotaph at Melville Oval. We will have our own ceremony here at school for the rest of the staff and students.

2016 Prep Transition
Our first transition morning was held last Wednesday when an excited and nervous group of kinder students arrived at school to experience life in Prep! We are very much looking forward to our next session on Tuesday 10th November, which will be followed by an Information Evening at 7pm.

Class Groupings 2016
Our class groupings have been decided for 2016 and are as follows:
Prep 1/2 1/2 3/4 3/4 5/6 5/6
Please stay tuned in coming weeks for news of many exciting initiatives for 2016!

Class Lists
Teachers are currently working on class lists for next year and many hours are spent on this task. Please be assured that teachers use their professional knowledge of students and their judgement of what is best for each individual child when considering groupings.

In assigning students to classes, teachers are asked to consider the following criteria to ensure an even spread of:
- learning abilities
- boys and girls
- even grade levels
- learning friends - these are not necessarily playground friends but students they enjoy and work well with. In many instances students are asked for their input in this area.
- friendship groups - it is uncommon for students not to be with at least one of their chosen friends

A great deal of consultation occurs between teachers and Jo-Anne before lists are finalised. If you have thoughts regarding your child’s learning needs and placement for next year please share these in writing on a Request Slip that is available from the office and have them to Jo-Anne no later than Friday 28th November. This is not a guarantee that the lists will reflect your suggestion as we also have faith in the judgement and decisions made by the teachers who best know these children in the learning environment. Your input can sometimes give us a different perspective when considering class groupings. Please do not make requests based on teachers.

Thanks to everyone for their support this week, have a wonderful weekend with your loved ones and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Terrielynn

THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!

RICE DAY THOUGHTS...
Grade Prep
I was thinking about other people who don’t have much food.
Chase Turnbull

Grade 1
Some kids are lucky if they even get one bowl of rice. It was hard!
Griet Rowe

Grade 2
I was glad to have my tea last night because other people don’t get to have that sort of food.
Phoebe Dunn

Grade 3
I was feeling hungry waiting for the rice. I felt I was walking in the shoes of the poor.
Nick Trotter

Grade 4
I thought that I’m lucky I don’t have to eat rice everyday.
Rahni Meade

Grade 5
Rice Day made me think how lucky we are to have the food that we have.
Taylor Bowie

Grade 6
When I was feeling hungry waiting for the rice I was thinking of the starving kids.
Lachlan Kenny

Sports News

Prep Athletics Afternoon! Monday 9th November
The Preps will have a mini athletics carnival during school on Monday 9th November from 2.20-3.15pm. They will rotate through many different events to get a taste of athletics with help from their Grade 6 buddies. We welcome any parents, guardians, grandparents and family members to attend!
Senior Hoop Time – Tuesday 10th November
Best of luck to our Senior Regional qualifiers for HoopTime, the Grade 5/6 All Star Boys and Girls! They play in Hamilton on Tuesday 10th November. Thank you to Robbie Cook, Cathy Ferguson, Jo Bowie, Adam Jennings and Jo Kenny for supporting these teams.

Milo T20 Blast Cup- Friday 13th November
The Milo T20 Blast Cup (formally Kanga 8s) will be held in Hamilton on Friday 13th November. This cricket competition is open to any of our Grade 5/6 students who wish to play. Notes have gone home to all interested children. Please ensure you return the permission note and helper form by Wednesday 11th November.

Saturday Morning Netball
The girls played a great game last weekend, they are blowing me away with their developing attacking skills every week! This week we went down to the Gray Street Panthers. We rotated the girls through lots of different positions and the girls were fantastic at taking on new roles around the court. Eliza Armstrong and Tiana Fitzgerald teamed up beautifully in the goal ring in the first quarter. Libby Fox and Isabella Mailes continued to prove how versatile they are, doing a great job in every position they played. Chloe Jones starred in goal keeper! This week we take on College- go the St Mary’s Super Stars!

Hamilton Vitality Fun Run
The Hamilton Vitality Fun Run is being held on Sunday November the 8th. There are 5 different Fun Run options, including a 1.6km run for kids starting at 10.00am.

Australian Schools Triathlon Challenge
The Australian Schools Triathlon Challenge returns to the Lake Pertobe precinct at Warrnambool Beach and Foreshore on Friday 20 November 2015. The event kicks off at around 9.30am and will finish by approximately 2.30pm; registration opens from 7.30am: The event is ‘participation-focused’ and is open to all students from Grade 3 to Grade 6, regardless of ability, disability, or fitness levels. Registration fee is $20 per student; this covers entry into the individual event, team event, or if the student wishes, it covers them for both events. All students receive a merchandise pack on the day, including a colour-coded (by grade) Zoggs swim-cap. The event is professionally run to national triathlon standards; road closures, water safety and marshalling are provided, you just enjoy a great, fun and healthy day out! For further event information visit www.schoolstriathalonchallenge.org.au

Hamilton Motorcycle Club - Maddison Cotten
Last Saturday was race day at the Hamilton Motorcycle Club. I raced three races and won all three of them. I got a first place ribbon. I had a good day. Thank you for sharing your ribbon with me on Monday Maddison and well done! It is always fantastic to see and hear about our kids participating in sporting events in our wider community. Please always feel free to share your sporting news with our school community. You can hand me a recount of your sporting event or email me ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Parents and Friends

Uniform Shop
Please note that the Uniform Shop will now open on Tuesdays from 3.30pm due to Kellie’s new work commitments. Have you got some time once a week to help out with our Uniform Shop? Please contact Kellie or Jo-Anne for more information.

Canteen Roster Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/11/15</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/11/15</td>
<td>Cathy Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/11/15</td>
<td>Michelle Ferey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/15</td>
<td>Michelle Ferey</td>
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</tbody>
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If anyone would like to put their name down for Term 1, 2016 please come to the school office.

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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Hamilton Catholic Youth Group Dinner
Sat 14th Nov @ 7pm in the Dunworth Centre. More info@http://www.stmaryshamilton.org.au/category/youth
RSVP: Charlotte Stanhope to 0437 017 296.

Grade 6 Students
You are invited to come together and celebrate your final year of primary school!
When: Friday 27th November 2015
Where: ‘Blue Malt’ (back room) Gray St, Hamilton
Time: 6.30pm
Cost: Approx. $12/$15
Parents most welcome to stay for a meal in the restaurant. An invite will come home with your child with all the details.

Expo News!
Keep in mind the following items need to be returned to school as soon as possible, your support of our Expo is greatly appreciated.
- Gift Boxes
- Raffle Books
- Volunteer Forms

Hamilton Vitality Fun Run
Sunday November 8th 2015
42km marathon ~ 7.00am start
21km half marathon ~ 8.00am start
10km run / walk ~ 9.00am start
4.2km run / walk ~ 9.30am start
1.6km run for kids ~ 10.00am start
Presentations ~ 11.30am

2015 Swimming Age champions