Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Seemed fitting to reflect on the message of St Francis of Assisi in a week where violence and aggression has dominated all forms of media. For us as adults it can be all-consuming to see story after story, place after devastated place, face after troubled face – imagine what this can be like for our young people and the view of their world they are forming. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like some support on how to talk with your children about the events that are happening in their world. We have been provided with some very useful materials and resources that may be useful.

Fr Paddy’s message last week at mass was that violence and aggression does not defeat violence and aggression. The only thing that can overcome these is the power of love and positivity. There have been many instances and feel-good stories of victims who have shown these exact traits in their response to the situations around the world. Our challenge is to instil this mindset in ourselves and each other so that the cycle can be broken.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER**
- Mon 23rd: Expo meeting @ 6.00pm
- Tues 24th – Wed 25th: Gr 6 Transition activity @ Monivae School Council @ 7.00pm
- Thurs 26th: Carols Festival – Gr 3/4s
- Fri 27th: P/1/2 History Box incursion
- Mon 30th: Expo meeting @ 6.00pm

**DECEMBER**
- Sat 5th: Christmas Expo!!!
- Tues 8th: Whole school Transition Day
- Sun 13th: End of School Year mass @ 10.30am
- Tues 15th: Last day of classes
- Wed 16th: School office closed at 4pm
- Wed 16th & Thurs 17th: Numeracy Testing

**JANUARY 2016**
- Wed 27th: Staff day
- Thurs 28th & Fri 29th: Literacy Testing

**FEBRUARY**
- Mon 1st: First day of classes
Planning 2016

- **2016 Prep Transition** – on Wednesday of this week we once again welcomed our Prep students for next year as they continued on their transition journey to school. The Grade 5 students were extremely excited to meet their Prep buddy and begin to forge a bond with them.

- **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

- **Class Lists** - Teachers are currently working on class lists for next year and working together to place students in their best learning group. As we work very much in flexible groups the idea of students changing learning groups many times in a day is a practice they are very familiar with. 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.

- **LOTE in 2016** - After much consultation and thought, we have decided that in 2016 we will move from teaching French here at St Mary’s to teaching Indonesian. From next year, this will be taught from Prep – 6 by John Healy.

- **Planning for Learning** – over the next couple of weeks teachers will be spending some time planning the teaching and learning program for 2016. This may mean that your child will have one of our visiting teachers at some stage during this time.

**Congratulations!**

Henry Haddad (Prep) arrived at school with very exciting news on Monday! Congratulations to Abraham, Lina, Henry and Christopher on the birth of their twin boys last weekend. Wishing you all health and happiness as you settle into a new family experience.

**Parish Stewardship**

Thank you to those families who have responded to the Parish Stewardship Program by offering their time, talent or financial assistance. Please consider how you are able to contribute to our community and become involved in working together to support the work of our Parish. It would be very much appreciated if you could please complete your form and return to school or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**Parent Transition Night**

As part of our planning for the 2016 school year teachers will present an information evening for parents on Tuesday 8th December. All parents and carers are invited to attend to learn more about how students will be supported in the transition from one grade to another as well as how you can assist in this process. The sessions will be held at the following times:

- Grade 1/2 – 6.30pm
- Grade 3/4 – 7.00pm
- Grade 5/6 – 7.30pm

Please note that you attend the year level your child will be in for next year!

**Grade 5/6 Transition Experience**

Next Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November, grade 5 and 6 students from St Joseph’s School, Coleraine, St Mary’s School, Hamilton and Sacred Heart School, Casterton will spend two days learning at Morive College. ‘Transition’ into secondary school is a major wellbeing concern for many students, so these days provide an excellent opportunity for our senior students to experience two straight days of learning in a secondary school environment. Our senior teachers have spent a considerable amount of time planning in collaboration with our neighbouring schools to ensure a positive experience for all students. More information has been sent home to our Grade 5/6 students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

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

**THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!**

**Grade 3/4**

The 3/4s have been collecting tinned hams for St. Vinnie’s so they can put them in Christmas hampers for the less fortunate. We asked Mrs. Donne, the organiser, to come in and we presented her with all of our hams. She was very pleased! **By Macey and Keely**
Ellen, Lauren, Amy, Abbey, Klay and Tayla are organising a bake sale for St Vincent de Paul. We will be selling homemade sweets and treats like cakes, muffins, brownies and more. All parents and students are welcome to come and buy some of our homemade treats. All treats and sweets are between 50c and $2. Don’t forget it will be going to a good cause; to give the money to St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal to help the poor. If you would like to donate some money then there will be a donation jar out the front of the stall. It will be held on Monday the 23rd and Friday the 27th of November at lunch one. We would like you to come. Thank you. By Ellen and Lauren.

Grade 5/6 Diamante Poems

Fruit
Sweet, sour
Refreshing, invigorating, well-being
Apple, orange, pizza, chips
Fattening, soothing, regretting
Yum, tasty
Junk Food
Isabella Mailes

Sun
Inferno, conflagration
Blazing, boiling, burning
Gaseous, flares, rock, craters
Stilling, gleaming, calming
Desolate, tranquillity
Moon
Nick Ferguson

Heaven
Beautiful, gorgeous
Dazzling, relaxing, breathtaking
Freedom, flowers, thorns, slavery
Frightening, panicking, shocking
Scary, devilish
Hell
Sophie Trotter

Artroom Splashes!!

If you have not yet collected your child’s framed artwork, there are still a few sitting in the front office, please come and collect them!

I am still very happy to receive any donations of exterior paints, in a variety of colours, if you have any sample pots at home that you no longer need. White undercoat would also be lovely.

A Christmas ‘Giving Tree’ will soon appear in the middle of the Learning Street! To continue our mission beyond Mission Day students are invited to write down an act of kindness they could show to others during the special season of Advent. These will be written on card ‘baubles’ and hung on the tree. You are also invited to help make the Christmas of a child less fortunate brighter by purchasing a gift to leave under the ‘Giving Tree’. This is not compulsory, but if you wish to do so, wrap the gift, label it ‘boy’ or ‘girl’ and the appropriate age group, then leave it under the tree to be distributed. A basket will also be under the tree for any donations of food for the Grade 3/4 Christmas Hampers.

Thanks so much, Shelley

Sports News

Victorian Golf Schools Division Championships – Warrnambool

Bailey Borgmeyer qualified for the Division Championships through winning the Hamilton and District Golf Tournament during the year. He had a sensational day at Warrnambool and finished 3rd overall on a score of 44 over 9 holes. The winner from Terang finished on 39 and second place from St Pius finished on 42. Bailey’s fantastic result has seen him qualify for Melbourne. We are so immensely proud of Bailey and wish him all the very best! Thank you to Andrew Borgmeyer for supporting Bailey in his golfing endeavours.

Senior Hoop Time – Tuesday 10th November

We had two teams from Grade 5/6 attend the All Stars Hoop Time Regional Finals at HILAC. It was a tough day of competition that saw many great games being played from both sides. The girls were the stars of the day, managing to secure a place in the semi-finals after a 2-1 record in the pool matches. They ultimately went down in the semi-finals, despite showing great determination and skill all day. The boys fought gallantly throughout their pool matches and managed to win 1 game, which saw them miss out on a spot in the semi-finals by 1 point, ending the day in 3rd position. A big congratulations to all involved in the day and for showing an excellent level of sportsmanship. Thank you again to Robbie Cook, Cathy Ferguson, Jo Bowie, Adam Jennings, Jo Kenny and Mr Ferguson for supporting these teams. Your support, guidance and time are truly appreciated and without you we would not be able to provide valuable experiences like the Hoop Time tournaments.
Milo T20 Blast Cup - Friday 13th November
We had four teams attend the Milo T20 Blast Cup (formally Kanga 8s). The girls had a fun day of experiencing competitive cricket in an inclusive and supportive format. They unfortunately didn’t have a win, but had far too much fun! The boys had mixed results in a huge field of teams, 15 in total, which is sensational for cricket in our region! There were three wins in total for the day and one team missed out on the finals by percentage. The students displayed amazing sportsmanship and there were some terrific fielding, bowling and batting skills on display. A huge thank you to Lorraine Rowland for coaching on the day, you were sensational and your time was very much appreciated!

Saturday Morning Netball
The girls have had a loss to College and a narrow win to North Hamilton in the last fortnight. Our grade 3/4 girls continue to shine with Klay Collins and Chloe Jones displaying very impressive skills each week, especially in defence. Sophie Button played a great attacking game making sensational leads and Keely Burland was terrific in the centre court. This week there has been a change to the draw we are playing Gray Street Hawks. Thank you very much to the superb Monique Sobey for stepping in as coach last weekend!

Parents and Friends
CHRISTMAS EXPO NEWS!
A huge thank you to the families who are on board the Expo journey and supporting the work being done to make this event a successful one.

Hopefully you have returned your:
- GIFT BOXES
- RAFFLE BOOKS
- VOLUNTEER FORMS

reminders
- Wristbands for the rides are on sale at the office!
- The Gourmet Gifts stall is having a day to wrap and prepare their goods on Friday 27th November from 9.00am at 31 Kent Rd. All welcome!
- 3HA/Mixx FM will conduct an outdoor broadcast at school on Friday 4th December! Make sure you are listening!
- An Expo Newsletter will be put together to go home next Friday. If you have any items to be included please pass on to one of the Committee members by Tuesday.

WRISTBAND PRICES:
- 1 CHILD $15.00
- 2 CHILDREN $25.00
- 3+ CHILDREN $40.00
(max 4 children, must be from same family)

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be open on a Monday from 3.35 – 4pm for the rest of the year - If you are unable to make it for that time but wish to make a purchase you can place an order with the school office or I can arrange another time to meet you. Please note: Payment in full must be made before items can be picked up.

Thank you for your support,
Kellie

Canteen Roster Term 4
25/11/15 Michelle Ferey
2/12/15 Michelle Ferey
If anyone would like to put their name down for Term 1, 2016 please come to the school office and place your name on the roster!!!

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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<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>
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The Feast of Christ the King
A Celebration of Diversity in St Mary’s Parish
Sat. 21st Nov. at 6pm Mass
Sun. 22nd Nov. at 10.30am Mass.

- Come in traditional dress.
- Join the entrance procession.
- Bring a national food to share for morning tea or supper.
- Give a greeting in your native language.