First Sunday of Advent – Hope!

Thank you God for
the hope you give us.
We ask that as we wait for the
coming of Jesus that you will remain
present with us.
Help us today and every day
to worship you,
to hear your word and
to live your message by sharing your
hope with each other.
Amen

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Advent means ‘coming’ and is the Church season when we prepare and wait for the birth of Jesus. During this time we reflect and respond to questions such as: How do we live God’s message in our daily lives? How do we bring God to a world where joy and anguish live side by side? How do we recognise and celebrate Jesus present amongst us? The light from the candles of the Advent wreath grow stronger each week, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world!

EXPO!

After many months of planning and hours of extra energy our Christmas Expo is almost here again! The school has been a hive of Christmas activity with gift baskets, gourmet gifts and other goods being delivered daily.

Please see information in today’s Expo Newsletter regarding arrangements for the children’s participation in the Parade.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30th</td>
<td>Expo meeting @ 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Expo!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whole school Transition Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End of School Year mass @ 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School office closed at 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 13th</td>
<td>Wed 16th &amp; Thurs 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numeracy Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day for staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs 28th &amp; Fri 29th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numeracy Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literacy Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year @ 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramental parent m’ing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planning 2016

- Class lists for next year are being finalised. Thank you to the parents who supported the work of staff in compiling class lists. I personally appreciated those who respected the process – thank you.
- On Tuesday 8th December all students will experience a taste of 2016 when they work in their learning groups for next year. Our new Prep students will be with us on this day and everyone else moves up a grade for the day. Grade 6 students spend the day at Monivae. Slips indicating grades and teachers for 2016 will be sent home on Monday 7th December. Usually we would send these slips home the week before but with the busy week leading up to Expo, there will be limited time to complete them.
- At this stage we have confirmed classroom teachers for all grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Ms Tania Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miss Annie Forrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Mrs Sherree Gallagher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Lisa Schurmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Miss Elise Couchman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Jamie Ferguson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Mr John Healy will be teaching Indonesian as well as Music and Drama to all grades next year. He will also be working with teachers and classes, during learning time, on skills and strategies to improve how we integrate the use of technology into everyday learning.
- I will be able to include more information on the work of our other valued teachers in next week’s newsletter.
- 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.

School Fees

At our recent School Advisory Council meeting an increase in school fees for 2015 was approved. In order to meet our increasing costs and provide the learning programs that we do it was agreed to raise the fees by the Educational CPI of 5%.

This calculates to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$1076</td>
<td>($51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$171</td>
<td>($8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>($11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that our fees only make up the difference between the Government (Federal and State) funding we receive and the amount the Government determines as the cost of educating a Primary student. Fees do not mean that we have extra money in our budget to expend on additional resources.

If you have any queries regarding school fees or funding please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Choir

Well done to our Grade 3/4 Choir for their wonderful performance at the Combined Schools Carols Festival on Thursday. Students have been rehearsing with Mr Healy and Mrs Schurmann over the past few weeks. Thank you!

End of Year Mass

A reminder that our mass to celebrate the end of the school year is Sunday 13th December starting at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church. All students are expected to attend this special occasion in their correct school uniform. Students will sit with their class in the church and all parents and friends are invited to join us.

Our Grade 6 students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates during the mass. Your support of all that we do in terms of our liturgical celebrations throughout the year is appreciated and is something you agree to when you sign your enrolment application form. Mass will be followed by a cuppa in the gathering space to which an open invitation is extended. Could Grade 5 families please bring along a plate to share for morning tea?

A few reminders

- In the past week I have noticed that there are a number of students arriving late to school on a regular basis. In order to support your child in their learning it is important that they arrive before the 8.55am bell to allow them time to prepare themselves for learning. Any students arriving after the learning day has started must be signed in at the office by the adult dropping them off.
- There are a number of students wearing incorrect uniform items at the moment. This includes the right coloured socks.
- The lost property basket is overflowing with a variety of items. It would be a good idea to check if any of the clothing belongs to you before the end of the school year when it will be washed and sent to St Vincent de Paul.
Numeracy and Literacy Assessments
Timetables for these appointments are currently being prepared. We have been very pleased with the response from parents this year indicating time preferences which allows us to support all involved.
- Letters to indicate appointment times for Numeracy interviews will be sent out with the newsletter on Friday 11th December.
- Letters to indicate appointment times for Literacy assessments will be given out at the Numeracy interviews and a reminder posted in mid-January.

Congratulations!
Sophie (Gr 6) and Nick (Gr 3) Trotter have excitedly been waiting for the arrival of their new brother. Congratulations to Tania and Michael on the birth of Zac earlier this week!

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 and 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
Our Grade 5 & 6 students experienced learning in a secondary school setting this week when they spent two days at Monivae. Students worked with students and teachers from St Joseph’s Coleraine and Sacred Heart Casterton on a program based on their current classroom learning. Thank you and well done to Elise Couchman, Annie Forrest and Jamie Ferguson as well as staff from the other schools for the time and energy you committed to this activity for the students. Thank you also to Monivae for your support.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival
From next Wednesday Annie Forrest will be accompanying young people from our Parish to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. We hope that her time at this national event will be rewarding and we thank the Parish for providing Annie with the opportunity.

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.

**THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!**
On Tuesday and Wednesday this week the Gr 5/6s loved having their classes in the Year 7 rooms up at Monivae. It was great practice for the Year 6s, preparing us for next year. We got to try out some different subjects that many of us had never experienced before. We learnt about their timetable and how their classes work. It was interesting and it felt like we were back in Prep! The Gr 5/6s really enjoyed their time up at Monivae and the Year 6s are all very excited for next year!

Ben Starkie and Ayva Jones.

**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
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

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

2/12/15 Michelle Ferey (Last Canteen 2015)
Next Wednesday is our last Canteen for 2015, thank you so much to Jenni Taylor, Michelle Ferey and Cathy Ferguson for keeping the Canteen going and organising the lunches every Wednesday. If anyone would like to put their name down on the Canteen Roster for Term 1, 2016 please come to the school office and place your name on the roster.

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2015

Hamilton: Saturday 6pm
          Sunday 10.30am
Dunkeld:  Sunday 8.30am
Glenthompson: Sunday 8.30am
Penshurst: Sunday 8.30am
Macarthur: Sunday 8.30am

Sports News

Saturday Morning Netball
The girls had a great win against Gray Street Hawks on Saturday! We played an amazing attacking game, creating beautiful passages of play down the court!

Tiana Fitzgerald brought great leadership to the court, creating space and making sensational leads. Eliza Sobey added numerous goals to the scoreboard and Ayva Jones shot a few brilliant goals as well! Sophie Button and Klay Collins were once again sensational in the centre court. Amalie Rowe and Libby Fox ran their feet off in centre and Caitlin Urquhart took to Goal Defence well. Isabella Mailes and Chloe Jones took some terrific intercepts!

We have made the first week of finals! We play Gray Street Panthers, who we are yet to beat this season. The girls play Saturday 9.30am at Pedrina Park. Please come down to support our team of Superstars if you can!! LET’S GO SUPERSTARS!!!

Little Athletics Region Relay Championships

Grace Cleaver, Koby Slattery-Fisher and Hugh Fitzgerald represented Hamilton in the Little Athletics on Sunday.

Results:-
Under 9 4x100m mixed included Grace and Hugh 2nd place
Under 9 4x200m mixed included Grace and Koby 1st place
Under 9 4x100m boys included Koby and Hugh 2nd place
Under 9 medley boys included Koby and Hugh 2nd place
Under 9-11 medley girls included Grace 1st place
Under 10 4x200m mixed Hugh promoted up an age group 2nd place.

A great day had by all.