**PRAYING LENT**

**LOVING GOD,**

Sometimes my heart turns in every direction except towards you. Please help me to turn my heart toward you, to gaze upon you in trust and to seek your kingdom with all of my heart. Soften my hardened heart so that I might love others as a way to glorify and worship you. Grant me this with the ever-present guidance of your spirit.

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Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Can you believe that we are over half way through this term?!

It has been encouraging to see how students are adapting to the strategies teachers have introduced this year. Students are being challenged to be responsible and independent learners in their learning spaces and we are seeing great success with growing self-confidence in their attitudes, skills and knowledge.

Teachers had a very rewarding learning experience of their own in Halls Gap on Monday and Tuesday this week. Check out their comments later in the newsletter.

Looking forward to the Athletics Sports on Monday! Elise Couchman has been working very hard to get everyone ready to run. Go Loreto!

**Thanks for a great week!**

God bless you ☺

Jo-Anne

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MARCH**

- **Mon 21st** Athletics Sports @ Pedrina Park
- **Wed 4th** Gr 5/6 Parliament Excursion
- **Fri 6th** Division Swimming @ Portland
- **Mon 9th** Public Holiday
- **Tues 10th** PSG meetings
  - P&F Parent lunch
- **Wed 11th – Fri 13th**
  - Gr 5/6 Camp @ Melbourne
- **Fri 13th** Ride to School Day
  - Regional Swimming
- **Mon 16th-Tues 17th** Learning Conversations
- **Fri 20th** Reconciliation Workshop
- **Tues 24th – Thurs 26th**
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **Tues 24th** ACMA Cybersafety presentations
- **Thurs 26th** Division Athletics
- **Fri 27th** Last day of Term 1

**APRIL**

- **Mon 13th** Start of Term 2!
- **Thurs 16th** 1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30
- **Thurs 23rd** 1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30
- **Fri 24th** P&F Lunch BBQ
- **Thurs 30th** 1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30
  - Raising Teens 1.30 – 3.00

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**Visitors during the school day**

If you visit the school at any time between 8.55am and 3.15pm **you must report to the office! Please do not make your own way to the learning spaces.**
School Rules
All students are expected to follow our three main school rules:
Respect your school
Do your best
Help others to succeed

Learning Conversations
Thanks to the families who have let us know that they have a preferred day and time frame for Learning Conversations. An appointment slip will be sent home to all families on Tuesday 10th March.

Sympathy
This week our prayers are with Leonie Wolfe following the death of her Pop on the weekend. We also extend our sympathy to Chris and Dale Minney on the death of Dale’s uncle.

Congratulations!
A very excited Jono Beattie arrived at school on Wednesday morning with the news that he, Em and Finn have a baby brother, Angus! Congratulations to Rhett, Shauna and family on their latest addition.

Emergency Management
Students and staff participated in an evacuation drill yesterday as part of our Emergency Management Plan. Drills are held at least once per term to prepare in the case of a real event.

Wellbeing
Congratulations to Annie Neeson who has been successful in gaining a position in Geelong which will enable her to join her family who have already relocated. Annie has been a staff member at St Mary’s for most of the past seven years – as a teacher and a valued counselor and support for many students and their families. Annie will complete her work with us in the next couple of weeks. We wish Annie the very best in her move and look forward to seeing her on her visits home to Hamilton.

At the end of 2014 we received notification of our successful National Chaplaincy Program in Schools application. During term 2 we will be pleased to begin a partnership with Centacare in delivering wellbeing and counseling support to our school community.

Centacare Programs
We are very fortunate to have Centacare running two programs at our school next term.
1-2-3 Magic and Emotional Coaching aims to create a more peaceful household, less arguing and fewer angry moments. This program will be held at St Mary’s on Thursday 16th April, 23rd April and 30th April from 10.30am – 12.30pm and is free of charge! There are a few spaces left – please contact Jo-Anne or Centacare (details on attached flyer) if you are interested or require further information.

Raising Teens is a program specifically for parents who have young people in Years 6, 7, 8 & 9. This program is also free of charge and will be held on Thursday 30th March 1.30 – 3.00pm at St Mary’s.

PROJECT COMPASSION
At St. Mary’s, one way we encourage our students to think of others before themselves, during LENT, is to contribute to Project Compassion, a mission run by Caritas Australia which is the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development. Each child was given a small box to take home on Wednesday. This is their Project Compassion Box. Please place it prominently in your home and encourage the students to contribute what money they can to Project Compassion by placing coins in their box. Then return the Project Compassion Box, with the money inside, to school. This year, all Project Compassion Boxes are due back to school no later than Wednesday, 15th April 2015. (Week 1, Term2).

Remembering Jesus’ message ‘love one another as I have loved you’ and that we aim to work together as a team for all, we encourage you and your family to support your students in this endeavour, so that those in need can have ‘FOOD FOR LIFE’.

The Word on the Learning Street!
Dear Parents & Carers,
The St. Mary’s staff have been exploring the importance of teaching oral language and how it underpins the acquisition of literacy skills. To begin with we will build into our current practice two elements of the OLSEL initiative. These being ‘phonological awareness’ and ‘building vocabulary’. Teachers will also be moderating the time they spend on ‘teacher talk’, allowing more time for children to engage in ‘learning conversations’ with their peers.

Sherree Gallagher

Key learnings from OLSEL:
• Constructive and directed talk opportunities with children must be modelled and led by adults.
• Parents are the first and most influential modellers of oral language.
• Good grammar and pronunciation of words will affect literacy skills in reading, writing and spelling.
• It is ok to correct children who make mistakes in their grammar or pronunciation - how else will they ever learn to correct themselves.

Leonie Wolfe
The OLSEL professional learning:
- drove home the importance of increasing children’s phonemic awareness through oral techniques
- heightened the need to increase student vocabulary through the use of a regular, structured classroom processes.

John Healy

Our PD days on OLSEL were excellent! We learnt how to explicitly teach oral language in the classroom to help students improve in all areas of the curriculum. One of the main slogans from the days was ‘every child has a voice’. It gave us ideas and strategies on how to engage every child actively in the classroom. I am looking forward to seeing the impact OLSEL has on students’ improved learning and success as the research and evidence show it has worked in other schools.

Lindy Cullinane

The OLSEL initiative has excited the Grade 5/6 Team and we are motivated to use more Oral Language techniques in our learning spaces. We will introduce a vocabulary chart to extend our word knowledge each week.

Annie Forrest

The Sport Catch Up with Miss Couchman.

District Tennis – from Karen Huf (HDSA coordinator)
Nine boys and two girls participated in the HDSA Tennis Tournament. The boys were split into two groups and the winner of each group played off in the final to ascertain the winner for the day. The finalists were Ed Beggs and Dougal Mann both from College, Dougal was the eventual champion. The second 2 boys in each group played off to determine our emergency for the event. This match was played between Ethan Knight and Riley Arnold both representing Hamilton North. As there were only two girls entered, they played the best of three complete sets. Olivia Allen from Gray Stand Hilary Slocombe from Hamilton North fought out a great afternoon with Olivia Allen the eventual winner. The matches were played in great spirit and even though it was quite warm, all participants coped really well and had an enjoyable afternoon. Well done!

Sam Crawford’s & Bailey Mason’s Court Talk
On Thursday 19th February I won in the Hamilton District Tennis Competition. I won one match out of four and had fun playing tennis with students from other schools. (Sam)
On Thursday Sam and I both went to District Tennis. My first game was against Ed from College. I won the first game and he beat me four games straight to win 4-1. My second game was against George from Gray Street and I beat him 4-1. My final game was against Ethan from North Hamilton I won the first two games, but then he came back to win the next four. In the end I had a great day. Ed won in my pool and Dougal won in Sam’s pool. (Bailey)

Saturday Morning Netball
The Superstars faced a much taller and stronger College side last week. Although the girls went down 15-5, they displayed some amazing defensive skills. Our shorter players did an amazing job! Macey Bowie played terrifically in Wing Defense and Molly O’Brien was fantastic in Goal Defense. Libby Fox was great in Goal Keeper against a very skilled shooter. Caitlyn Urquhart ran her heart out and brought a fighting spirit in Centre. Taylor Bowie and Eliza Armstrong teamed up beautifully to be a dynamic goal shooting duo. Hoping to see more attacking chances this week! Go Superstars!
Please note that all fees are due this week to those families who are yet to pay.

Division Swimming- Portland Friday 6th March
Twelve ‘super fish’ students will compete in the Division Swimming being held on Friday 6th March in Portland. We wish Deacon, Ben, Libby, Chloe, Eliza, Amelie, Hamish, Eliza, Taylor, Bailey, Ayva and Demi all the very best for this event and look forward to hearing about their results next fortnight!

I’m looking forward to a wonderful year of sport at St Mary’s. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any sport related queries at school or email me at ecouchman001@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au
Thank you in advance for your terrific support this year!
Miss Couchman ☺

AFL Player Clinic

Relay for Life
This year we are entering a school team in the Cancer Council’s Relay For Life being held from Friday 20th March to Saturday 21st March. We will be having a purple themed casual clothes day and a purple themed cupcake day leading up to and after Relay for Life at school, so please watch this space, be involved and support in any way you can. If you, your children or family wish to walk a few laps with us we would truly love your support, please contact Miss Couchman (ecouchman001@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au) to indicate your interest or simply turn up on the night to join us.

Parents and Friends

Easter Raffle
It is almost Easter time and we will be having a raffle again this year. This is not a fundraiser but a fun activity that all the children love. Half of the money received from the tickets will purchase the prizes and the other half goes to Project Compassion. Each family is being sent a book of 5 tickets to sell at $1.00 each. Extra books are available at the office. The
prizes, usually between 30 and 40, will be drawn on Friday 27th March (last day of term 1). **Please have your tickets returned to school by Friday 20th March.**

**P&F Lunch**
The first event for the year will be a lunch for parents with the opportunity to especially welcome new families. If you think that organising a venue, RSVP list etc for this activity is something you could assist with please let Jo-Anne know and she will be happy to assist with the invitations etc. This might be something you could do with another parent! The tentative date for this lunch is Tuesday 10th March but can be changed to suit the organisers.

**AGM**
The Annual General Meeting for the P&F is scheduled for Tuesday 21st April starting at 7.00pm.

**Canteen Roster term 1**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/3/15</td>
<td>Cathy Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3/15</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/3/15</td>
<td>Michelle Ferey</td>
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<td>25/3/15</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
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**Parish News**

**MASS TIMES - 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 9am</td>
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<td>Glenthompson</td>
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<td>Penshurst</td>
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<td>Macarthur</td>
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St Mary’s will be celebrating ride2school day on Friday 13th March. We encourage students and their families to leave the car at home on this day and get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to walk and wheel to school. We will be meeting at the Lake car park, near the skate park, and leaving at 8:15am sharp. You can meet us there in a car then walk, scoot or ride. Everyone who is involved will get a piece of fruit and a fruit box when we arrive at Monivae College. Bags will be transported to Monivae from the starting point at the Lake. We support our students to walk or wheel to school because:

- Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of a school day.
- There are fewer cars around the school which eases ‘drop off congestion’.
- Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day.
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the classroom.

**Ride to school day**

I give permission for my child to participate in the Ride to School activity.

......................................................................................................................(parents signature)

**We are selling CYPOLES.** Every Friday afternoon until the end of term for $1-00 each! 1.40pm in the courtyard. **WHY?** To raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation! Harry Armstrong is shaving his mop of hair in March to support his mate Olly Francis (who is currently suffering from Leukaemia :®) All proceeds will be given to Harry so he can reach his goal of $2000.00 ($860 so far). Both Harry and Olly are past students of St. Mary’s and we are proud to support them both. Any other financial donations are MOST WELCOME and can be dropped into the office (Marked World’s Greatest Shave) or passed on to Lisa Cleaver before and after school on Fridays. If you need a receipt, please make sure your name is on the envelope. Thank you for your support.

**HAMPTON SCHOOL BUS NETWORK**

**BAIMBRIDGE COLLEGE: 85 STEPHEN ST HAMILTON**

Ph: 55722788, Fax: 55725811,

Email:gilchrist.david.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

**CODE RED WEATHER DECLARED DAYS**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy requires that the following school buses will not operate on a Code Red day as declared by the Bureau of Meteorology:

- Dunkeld No 10
- Glenthompson No 9
- Victoria Valley No 8
- Cavendish No 5
- Mooralla No 6
- Macarthur No 15
- Macarthur No 16
- Macarthur No 17
- Merino No 21

All other services will operate as usual.

Yours sincerely

David Gilchrist
Co-ordinator

**ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR 2016**

Monivae invites potential 2016 Year 7 students and their families to visit Monivae College.

**Open Days**

Tuesday, 24th February 9:30am. Thursday, 26th February 7:00pm.

Sunday, 15th March 2:00pm.

**Spend the Day at Monivae**

Tuesday, 24th March.

For more information contact Lia Mailes on (03) 5551 1245 or via lmailes@monivae.vic.edu.au