Praying Lent

God of infinite love,
I thank you for this reminder of your love
and your call that we be more patient,
gentle and compassionate with others.
Here in the middle of Lent, I turn to you to beg for your help.
Please soften my heart.
Help me to let go of judging others.
I ask you this, in Jesus’ name.

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Hope you all enjoyed the long weekend and had
the opportunity to experience some rest and
relaxation.

It seems that this week there have been many
students unwell with a variety of ‘bugs’. Hopefully
all are well again soon! A reminder not to send your
child to school if they have been vomiting the
previous day or overnight. This helps to prevent the
spread of germs.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you ☺

Jo-Anne

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
• Appointment slips were sent home this week
indicating your Learning Conversation time.
Please contact the Office as soon as possible if
there is a problem with your allocated time.

Important Dates

March
Mon 16th – Tues 17th
Learning Conversations
Mon 16th
Expo Committee @
Tues 17th
District Athletics
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
Tues 21st
P&F AGM @ 7.00pm
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 1.50 – 3.00
Sacramental Parent m’ing @ 7.00pm

May
Mon 11th
Pupil free day – OLSEL
Tues 12 – Thurs 14th
NAPLAN – Gr 3 & 5 students
Mon 25th – Fri 29th
Catholic Education Week
Mon 25th
Open Morning 9.30 – 11.00am
• Please bring your son/daughter along to their appointment time so he or she can be involved in the conversation.
• This is an opportunity to have a discussion between parents, teachers and students relating to your child’s learning so far this year. It will also be a time to share learning directions and the results of Literacy and Numeracy testing conducted so far.
• It is vital that you are punctual to these meetings to ensure that we can run the afternoons as smoothly as possible.

Pupil Free Days
Following our recent School Advisory Council meeting the following dates were approved as professional learning days for staff. **Students do not attend school on these days.**
- Monday 11th May
- Wednesday 29th July
- Monday 10th August

Gr 5/6 Camp
Students in Grade 5 & 6, accompanied by staff and parent helpers, are enjoying their three day camp activity in Melbourne this week. We will look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return later today. Thanks to the parents who have provided their assistance and to Leonie, Elise, Annie and Terrielynn for their many hours of preparation.

Uniform Reminders
Thanks to those students who are brilliant at following the expectations regarding our school uniform – you show great respect and pride in your school.
Please remember that nail polish, temporary tattoos and earrings (other than studs or small sleepers) are not permitted.

Congratulations!
If Annie Forrest can keep her eyes open after camp she will be celebrating her graduation from ACU - Australian Catholic University this weekend. Congratulations Annie on a wonderful achievement – we are blessed to have you at St Mary’s in your first teaching role.

**PASTORAL CARE**
This week I include information from our Pastoral Care Policy relating to some of the strategies we implement to achieve our aims in this area.
If you would like to read the whole policy, check it out on the school website under ‘Documents’.

**Policy Guidelines & Realisation**
- At St. Mary’s our Pastoral Care Program endeavours to recognise the life skill needs of students and to provide opportunities to foster them. Our Programs highlight experiences that reflect the value of contributions to the community, self-worth and well-being.
  - These are met through: -
    - Health Programs
    - Restorative Practices
    - KidsMatter – Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative
    - Circle Time strategy
    - Personal Development Education
- Families are encouraged to participate in the life of the school in many ways that demonstrate and foster co-operation, trust, support and respect.
  - Families are encouraged to visit the school at appropriate times either for special functions such as liturgies, concerts etc. or on more informal occasions to visit their children and to encourage friendships between staff and parents.
  - Parents support the school by their involvement with parent bodies such as the School Advisory Council and Parents and Friends, by participating in various programs such as – classroom helpers, reading, camps and excursions.
- Everyone in the school community is involved in Pastoral Care. A commitment to partnership and shared responsibility amongst staff, students, parents and other family members is an integral feature of Pastoral Care.
  - In times of specific need the school is able to turn to a wide variety of support services.
  - Our local medical service providers are able to assist in many different situations, especially in the identification of medical problems that may impact on learning.
  - The School Nurse is available to offer assistance in the identification of problems and in the identification of services that may be of help.
  - Special Support Services such as Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy etc. are accessible through the local health service and is supported by the Catholic Education Office.
  - Parenting tips are provided with the school newsletter and resources in the parent library. Programs that address parenting are also promoted to the 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 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’.

Bus Captains 2015!!
Congratulations to the following students on becoming Bus Captains for 2015.
Max Flavel  Oscar Watson  Max Bradbury
Lily Annett  Bailey Borgmeyer  Edward de Salis

Cybersmart Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online
Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, St Mary’s is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

- The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including: the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge. The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on Tuesday 24th March at 6pm in the learning street.

The Sport Catch Up with Miss Couchman.

Athletics Day
A few belated, but immense, ‘thank yous’.
To Matt Dunn, Alan Kearney and Deb Fitzgerald for all their generous help throughout the day from setup until pack up. Also to the Little Athletics Club, for allowing us to use their high jump equipment and hurdles.

Division Swimming
Well done to our 12 superfish; Eliza Armstrong, Taylor Bowie, Libby Fox, Ayva Jones, Chloe Jones, Hamish Kearney, Bailey Mason, Ben Perkins, Amalie Rowe, Eliza Sobey, Demi Taylor and Deacon White! These students represented St Mary’s terrifically and they came away with some great times and great results. We had 13 results in the top 20, a fabulous effort! We had 4 students qualify for Regional Swimming in Ballarat, Chloe Jones (4th Butterfly), Libby Fox (5th Butterfly), Amalie Rowe (3rd Butterfly) and Ayva Jones (5th Breaststroke). Well done girls on this fantastic achievement! We are very proud of you! Thank you to all the parents who supported their children at this event and a special thank you to Annita Jones and Kris Fox for offering their specialised support on the day.

District Athletics
We have 26 Grade 5/6 students and 20 Grade 3/4 students attending District Athletics on Tuesday at Pedrina Park. We wish these students all the very best! Watch this space next week for a report!
THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!

Gr 3/4

Dear Parents and Carers of 3/4 students,
Maths homework- We, the 3/4’s have decided that we need to work on counting by 2’s and 3’s to 100. Your child has to know this by Friday 20th March.

Keely Burland

Parents and Friends

Canteen Roster term 1

18/3/15 Michelle Ferey
25/3/15 Jen Taylor

Please feel free to place your name on the canteen roster for Term 2 at the school office.

Raffle Tickets

Please remember to drop your Easter egg raffle tickets back to the school office as soon as possible. Have to be in it to win it!!

Parish News

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NAB Hamilton Auskick

NAB Hamilton Auskick will commence at Pedrina Park on Saturday 18th April at 9:00am concluding Saturday 20th June 2015. Go to www.aflauskick.com.au to register. The cost is $75.00 plus credit card fees. All participants that register and pay online before Monday 20th April 2015 are eligible for the AFL Gameday Club Connect offer of four free tickets to selected AFL games. Auskick packs will be delivered to your home addresses and no packs will be distributed at Pedrina Park.

YOUTH HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tuesday 31st March >
Go Karting & 10 Pin Bowling Warrnambool
Thursday 2nd April > Bounce Inc. Melbourne
Tuesday 7th April > Paintballing Mt Gambier
Thursday 9th April > Luna Park Melbourne

For further information or bookings please contact the Frances Hewett Community Centre on 55518450 or fhcc@wdhs.net