Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Where has the term gone? With one week to go staff and students are still trying to work hard and get as much learning completed as possible. With lots of tired children this has been a big task. Hopefully they are co-operating at home and trying to get to bed a bit earlier to compensate.

Please note the earlier finish time of 2.15pm next Friday.

With Term 2 just around the corner teachers are spending time in their teams this week and next planning their teaching and learning program for students.

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

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Praying Lent – From Pope Francis

Christians... are called to care for the vulnerable of the earth... the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned, and ... unborn children, the most defenceless and innocent among us.

(The Joy of the Gospel 209 – 210, 213)

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Important Dates

MARCH

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Thurs 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Tues 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ACMA Cybersafety presentations</td>
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<td>Spend the day at Monivae (Gr 6s)</td>
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<td>Thurs 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<td>Division Athletics</td>
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<td>Fri 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Gr 5/4 mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Earlier finish time 2.15pm</td>
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APRIL

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<tr>
<td>Mon 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Start of Term 2!</td>
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<td>Thurs 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30</td>
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<td>Fri 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony of Tibetan Monks program @ Monivae – whole school attending 10.00</td>
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<td>Mon 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tibetan monks – schools program Gr 5/6 students (Group 1)</td>
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<td>Tues 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tibetan monks – schools program Gr 5/6 students (Group 2)</td>
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<td>P&amp;F AGM @ 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30</td>
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<td>Fri 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;F Lunch BBQ</td>
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<td>Thurs 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30</td>
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<td>Raising Teens 1.30 – 3.00</td>
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<td>Sacramental Parent m’ing @ 7.00pm</td>
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Learning Conversations
A big thanks to students, parents and carers who attended their Learning Conversation appointment time earlier this week to share the start to this year’s learning journey.
Teachers have found this activity very positive and helpful. Thanks to staff for the extra time these appointments require, both in organising and participating.
A reminder that if you did not attend your appointment you are expected to contact your child’s homeroom/class teacher to arrange a suitable time.

Sacramental Program
Our Sacramental children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next week. Please support these children, and their families, and remember them in your prayers as they continue to prepare for this very important step along their faith journey. Everyone is welcome to come along to these celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6 pm at St Mary’s Church.

Uniform
Term 2 brings the changeover from summer to winter uniform, depending on the weather. As the weather is quite unpredictable at the start of the term, please gauge the forecast yourself and make an informed decision on the uniform you will send your children to school in for the start of term 2. Notice will be provided in the newsletter next term regarding an official change to winter uniform.
Please remember that nail polish, temporary tattoos and earrings (other than studs or small sleepers) are not permitted.

Holy Week Liturgy
Parents, carers and friends are invited to join us next Thursday at 12.30pm in the Learning Street as we share the story of Holy Week. Each class has been involved in the preparation of this event which is a prayerful way to remember the Passion of Jesus. Feel free to join us.

Pastoral Care
This week I include information from our Pastoral Care Policy about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. This document is used with our students to assist them in making strong choices.
If you would like to read the whole policy, check it out on the school website under ‘Documents’.

Student Code of Behaviour
At St. Mary’s I must try to:

- follow Jesus’ example and be a good example to others
- respect myself and others
- treat others the way I would like to be treated
- look after my belongings and those of others
- contribute positively to my school
- treat others fairly
- use good manners
- develop self-control
- be co-operative
- be responsible for my learning
- listen carefully
- speak nicely to others
- do my best
- take pride in my school, myself and everything I do
- keep my school clean and take care of our environment
- be safe and Sunsmart
- have fun and be happy

Unacceptable behaviour
To assist with maintaining a co-operative learning and social environment, the following activities are among those not permitted:

- answering back
- swearing
- not looking after belongings
- graffiti or vandalism
- calling out or yelling at others
- littering
- disrupting class, showing off or being silly
- stealing
- harassment, bullying or teasing
- disobedience – refusing to follow instructions
- dishonesty
- chewing gum
- being inside at play/lunch without permission
- playing in the toilets
- running inside
- activities that hurt others – fighting or rough play
- leaving classroom or school without permission
- lateness

Best wishes
Terrielynn Groves begins a time of long service leave next week and will return for Week 3 next term. We wish Terrielynn a wonderful time with family and look forward to her return to school.
Meg Cook is also taking a week of leave next week and will return at the start of Term 2! Have a relaxing and restful break Meg!
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

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.

Gr 5/6 Camp
Horns honked, pedestrians moved quickly and the sound of the little green man at the traffic lights indicated that we should walk. These were some of the sights and sounds of the Grade 5/6 Melbourne camp.

Last Wednesday we took fifty-one students to Melbourne. We travelled by foot, bus, train and tram to various sites and events around the city. The students enjoyed Scienceworks, Eureka Skydeck, Immigration Museum, the Planetarium and the Victoria Markets. We also enjoyed fun activities such as ten pin bowling, swimming and laser tag. Last Friday, the students attended the Young Leaders Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre, along with 3,400 Victorian students. The children listened to speakers such as Bindi Irwin (environmental warrior), Andy Griffith (author), Cohen Ashton (cystic fibrosis suffer and transplant recipient) and Dr Jess Gallagher (paralympian).

The children thought this was the highlight of our camp. We returned exhausted but exhilarated with the behaviour and enthusiasm of our students.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parents: Louise Starkie, Dylan Mailes, Andrew Borgmeyer, Cathy Ferguson, Pauline Perkins and Maize Meade, who supported the children on this experience.

Elise, Annie, Terrielynn and Leonie

The Sport Catch Up with Miss Couchman.

District Athletics
On Tuesday we were once again ‘blown away’ by the athletic talent on display at Pedrina Park. We had 46 keen athletes compete in tough conditions. It was fantastic to see all our students giving 100% in their events, representing St Mary’s terrifically and displaying some brilliant sportsmanship. Despite the wind, a few records were broken and all seven schools in our district have a qualifier for the Division Athletics, which is a wonderful accomplishment. We have 10 students who have qualified for the Division Athletics being held on Thursday 16th April. Well done to these students.

A special congratulations to Jason Hawker, who was the 11 Year Boys Champion! Jason also set a new record for the 11 Year Boys 100m, with a time of 14.45. Well done Jason! We are very proud of you!

Thank you to Teresa Purcell who offered her specialised skills on the day, the HDSA is very appreciative of the support you provide. Thank you to Sam Miller, Alan Kearney, Leonie Wolfe and Lisa Schurmann who offered their support on the day running High Jump, setting up and packing up. Also, thank you to many parents from our school community and other school communities who stepped in to help run the high jump. I was very grateful for the support!

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 😊

Long Jump
- Jason Hawker 1st
- Noah Mulley 2nd
- Bree-Anna Richards 1st
- Sienna Maddocks 2nd
- Keely Burland 2nd

Shot Put
- Ben Perkins 1st
- Nicholas Cotton 1st
- Tate Snell 2nd
- Ayva Jones 1st
- Taylor Bowie 2nd
- Molly O’Brien 3rd

Hurdles
- Sam Crawford 2nd
- Hamish Cook 3rd
- Deacon White 2nd
- Lily Annett 3rd

400m
- Keely Burland 2nd

2000m
- Sam Crawford 2nd
- Jason Hawker 2nd
- Lily Annett 1st

Relays
- 12 year Boys 2nd
- 9 year Boys 3rd
- 10 year Girls 3rd
- 9 year Girls 2nd
- 100m
- Nick Ferguson 3rd
- Jason Hawker 1st
- Deacon White 3rd

High Jump
- Bailey Mason 2nd
- Eliza Armstrong 3rd
- Eliza Sobey 3rd
- Keely Burland 1st

Discus
- Josh Nagorcka 3rd
- Tate Snell 2nd
- Tegan Kenny 1st
- Ayva Jones 2nd
- Macey Bowie 3rd
- Bailey Mason 3rd
- Jason Hawker 1st
- Eliza Armstrong 2nd

Relay for Life
The Cancer Council’s Relay For Life is being held tonight, Friday 20th March 6.25pm to Saturday 21st March 12.30pm at the Hamilton Recreational Reserve on King Street. Please support this wonderful event if you can. There will be plenty of activities for the kids. Unfortunately, we have withdrawn our team, but will still be supporting the event by having a PURPLE themed casual clothes day, next Friday 27th March. Please bring a gold coin donation and wear as much purple as you can or even wear a dress up costume that contains purple!! Looking forward to seeing some Purple People Power for the last day of term!

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY!
On Friday the 27th March we are having a casual clothes day. You will need to bring a gold coin donation to wear casual clothes. This casual clothes day theme is a pop of purple! The gold coins will go to relay for life.
Ride2School Day 2015
A line, crisp morning greeted the following students as they gathered at the car park at Lake Hamilton last Friday and rode to school.
Grace and Ruby Cleaver, Warwick and Charlotte Tonissen, Imogen and Hugh Fitzgerald, William Baker, Charles San Ba, Darcy Milne, Jake Ewing, Kaeden Murphy, Jack Sobey, Claire and Emily Pearce, Xavier and Deacon White, Brandon Wormald, Noah Mulley and Samuel Walsh.
These students displayed enthusiasm and persistence. All of them rode with care and completed the ride in good time and with energy to spare. We congratulate these students for taking part in this annual event. (The number of participants has increased each year.) It was a lovely way to start the day. A great community event!
The students were supported and accompanied by many members of their families - Parents, Grandparents and siblings and friends. We, on behalf of our students, would like to thank these supporters for making sure their child(ren) had returned the required form and that they were at the lake on time, with their modes of transport in working order, for riding with them and for ensuring their child(ren) and their bicycles/scooters made it home safely at the end of the school day. We would especially like to thank Shelley Northcott for transporting our students’ bags to school on that day.
This event was organised by Monivae students with support from their teachers. These students, some of them past St. Mary’s students, approached this event with enthusiasm, inviting our students to take part by addressing them at one of our recent assemblies, supporting and encouraging them on the ride and recognising their participation on the day, by presenting them with a certificate at our assembly today.
Our school community extends a huge thank you to the Monivae students and the staff members who supported them in running this enjoyable annual event.

THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!

Prep
Hi everyone, hard to believe that this term is almost over!
As a follow up to Learning Conversations I thought I would just let you know of a couple of useful internet reading websites I’ve used in the past that may be of help. The first is Reading Eggs, an ABC website which is great for learning letters and sounds. The kids really enjoy this one and it is also available as an i-pad app. You do have to pay to access this one. A YouTube search for Jolly Phonics may also give you an insight into the way I’m teaching a sound, action and letter to the kids. If I come across more sites I’ll let you know.
Next weeks’ new sound/letter is Jj and our new word is look. To recap the words and letters so far this term we’ve have had – Bb, Kk, Dd, Aa, Ff, Gg, Hh and words – a, I, the, and, can, to, like.

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.

Parents and Friends

Canteen Roster term 1
25/3/15 Jen Taylor
Please feel free to place your name on the canteen roster for Term 2 at the school office.

Please note: St Mary’s students may only order items from the St Mary’s Canteen list!

P&F meeting report
At a recent P&F meeting we came up with ideas for both the forthcoming year and ideas where we would like to see some of the P&F money spent. If anyone has ideas for social events or Expo please feel free to contact any representative or just come along to a meeting, we really could use your help. Any queries feel free to contact me 55740261.
The final figure from last year’s Expo is $10,500. Thanks to all who contributed.
As a parent on school camp it was really pleasing the way the kids behaved and enjoyed the Melbourne experience, we should also be extremely proud of the staff who were brilliant. Well done ladies.

Easter raffle
Please remember to drop your Easter raffle tickets back to the school office by Monday. Have to be in it to win it!!! Draw will take place next Friday at 1.40pm

Parish News

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<td>Penshurst:</td>
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<td>Macarthur:</td>
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Parish News
Youth Group Catch-Up on Sunday 29th March in the Dunworth Centre straight after 10:30am Mass. We will be discussing the upcoming event, which is a Pool Party on Sunday 18th April. Also we will be brainstorming future events, so bring along your ideas and recommendations. Lunch and beverages provided. Age Grade 5 to Year 12. Hope to see you there! Thanks from Charlotte Stanhope!