Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome back for Term 2! I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We will certainly need all the energy we can muster to work our way through the next eleven weeks of learning together.

I was hugely impressed with the image I have included with today’s prayer. Usually I search my way through Google to find an image that will hopefully illustrate to you something of the prayer or reflection that is provided. This week I had to go no further than our own students and staff!

An explanation of the amazing work is included in the newsletter to assist you in understanding it. If you would like to see the real thing call in to the office area where it is on display.

Keep your eyes peeled for more creative expression in the next week!

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you ☺

Jo-Anne

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May the risen Christ fill your heart with joy, bring you new hope and bless you with peace.

Amen.

Happy Easter

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**APRIL**

- *Mon 20th*: Tibetan monks – schools program Gr 5/6 students (Group 1)
- *Tues 21st*: Tibetan monks – schools program Gr 5/6 students (Group 2)
- *Thurs 23rd*: 1-2-3 Magic Program 10.30 – 12.30
- *Fri 24th*: P&F Lunch BBQ
- *Assembly @ 2.40pm* – including our ANZAC Liturgy
- *Café Chat @ 9.00am*
- *School Council AGM @ 7.00pm*
- *Raising Teens 1.30 – 3.00*
- *Sacramental Parent m’ing @ 7.00pm*

**MAY**

- *Mon 11th*: Pupil free day – OLSEL
- *Tues 12th – Thurs 14th*: NAPLAN – Gr 3 & 5 students
- *Tues 12th*: Expo Committee m’ing @ 6.00pm
- *Mon 25th – Fri 29th*: Catholic Education Week

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Collaborative Artwork "Hope"

Coloured textas, pencils, watercolour paints and oil pastel on newsprint.

This collaborative piece stemmed from the children's learning about the journey of Lent. We talked about taking journeys and the ‘journey of life’. The newspaper background symbolises the busyness of life’s journey...full of news stories that are often not good news, gossip, advertisements to buy and sell material things and articles telling us what we should see, think and do. The black and grey of the newsprint itself provides a dramatic backdrop on which to inscribe words of hope in light of contemporary world problems. The children were encouraged to cover the newsprint with bright, happy colours as a symbol of hope for the future. The image of Jesus drawn over the colourful background of words reminds us that Jesus and the Christian tradition is central to all that we do and that there is hope through faith.

Sacramental Program
We offer our prayerful congratulations to Tate Snell who was baptised and became a member of our Catholic family on Easter Saturday. Congratulations!

A reminder that the next meeting for parents of children involved in this year’s Sacramental Program is Thursday 30th April starting at 7.00pm at the Dunworth Centre. The focus of this meeting will be Confirmation. If you are unable to make this time please contact the Parish Office on 5571 1161.

Welcome!
As a result of our successful National Schools Chaplaincy Program application we have partnered with Centacare to provide continued pastoral and wellbeing support to our school community. Lisa Gonnet has been appointed by Centacare in this role and will work with us each Tuesday. Please make Lisa welcome when you meet her around the school!

Welcome also to Sam Sharrock (Prep) who is spending some learning time with us at the moment. We also welcome his grandparents Judy and John who are lovingly caring for him at the moment.

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. All students are expected to be in full winter uniform by Monday 27th April.

Would you like a cuppa?!
Thought I might try and make a regular time to sit and have a coffee and a chat with the parents and carers in our school. If you would like to join me and have a conversation about how these ‘Café Chats’ might work come along to the staff room on Tuesday 28th April between 9.00 – 10.00am.

Meetings
The next couple of weeks contain the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends (Tuesday 21st April @ 7.00pm) and the School Advisory Council (Wednesday 29th April @ 7.00pm). Both of these meetings will be held in the Meeting Room at school and all parents are invited and welcome to attend. Being involved in either group is a positive and constructive way to be involved in the life of the school.

ALL parents are members of the P&F – you don’t have to hold a position on the executive to come along and participate in conversations about maintaining and improving our great school community. It would be great if you could join us for an hour or so and be involved.

Although all members of the school community are invited to come along to the School Advisory Council AGM, only elected representatives attend the meetings held twice each term. This year there are no vacancies on the Council but it would be great if you are interested in coming along to the AGM at 7.00pm (takes less than an hour!)

ANZAC Day
During the coming week students will be learning about the history of ANZAC Day as part of their classroom programs. Being the centenary of the first landing at Gallipoli there is a strong presence of information and awareness to be seen in shops, on TV, social media etc.

Our student leaders are planning an ANZAC liturgy to be held as part of our assembly on Friday 24th April starting at 2.40pm. You are most welcome to join us.

Students are encouraged to attend the local services on Saturday 25th April to show respect and appreciation to all who have served our country in times of war and peace. The Hamilton services are scheduled for 6.30am and 11.00am at the Cenotaph at Melville Oval. Our school captains, Ben Starkie and Ayva Jones will represent St Mary’s at the later service.
Smoking Law Changes
As of April 13, 2015, under the Tobacco Act 1987 smoking is prohibited within the grounds of, and within four metres of an entrance to, all Victorian child care centres, kindergartens, preschools and schools. This ban ensures that children and young people can enter and leave these areas without being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke. Second-hand tobacco smoke is particularly dangerous to children and young people because they have smaller airways and less developed immune systems compared to adults. Children and young people are more likely to view smoking as socially acceptable when they regularly see people smoking. Banning smoking in areas used by children and young people will help to denormalise smoking behaviour and discourage children and young people from taking up smoking.

Pupil Free Days
The following dates have been approved as professional learning days for staff. Students do not attend school on these days.
- Monday 11th May
- Wednesday 29th July
- Monday 10th August

THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!

Grade 1/2
On Wednesday a Delta dog called Molly came to school. A Delta dog is a dog that goes to schools and hospitals. Molly listened to us read. Ava Sobey
Molly is a Delta dog. Seamus’ Nan, Noreen, came in with Molly. Molly also helps people feel better when they are in hospital. She had to do a test so that she could come into schools and be safe. Jack Sobey
I have to wear a red bandanna when I am working at school or at the hospital. I listened to some people reading, they were very good. I liked all the stories except the one about the Fox and The Cat in the Hat. Molly 🐶
We are doing a project about Geoff. He is helping us learn about the human body and how to be healthy. Griet Rowe

The Sport Catch Up

CROSS COUNTRY
Cross Country is almost here! Students in Grades 3-6 will compete in our school Cross Country to be held at Lake Hamilton on Friday, May 1st. We will travel by bus leaving from school at 12:15pm. Students in the 9 and 10 year age groups will run 2 kilometres, commencing from the beach area.

The 11 and 12 year age groups run 3 kilometres, commencing from the grassed area past the tennis courts. Sports uniform is to be worn on this day. All students need to have their own water bottle. If your child suffers from asthma it is suggested that they carry their own Ventolin inhaler while running.

We would love you to come and watch, but we ask that you park along Gray Street. This is to ensure the safety of the runners, so we do not have cars entering the area during the Cross Country.

We require a few helpers to assist on this day. People are needed at the finishing line. The race will commence at 12:30pm. If you are able to help, please send a note to Miss Couchman by Friday 24th April. Thank you for your support in advance!

Division Athletics
Division Athletics has been postponed from this week to a later date in September. More details will follow once a date is finalised.

Saturday Netball
The St Mary’s Superstars had a great last game for the Term One season. Molly O’Brien had a great fighting spirit in Goal Defence, a position she played tremendously in all season. Caitlyn Urquhart was doing fantastic leading and had great hands all game. Isabella Mailes was displaying great leadership on the court. Eliza Armstrong was great in goals, Taylor Bowie was terrific in defence and Clay Collins was marvellous in Goal Keeper!
Throughout the season the girls have hugely improved! They can now make space, lead for the ball and are attacking the ball by moving in front of their players. I have been very proud of the team work they display each week.
Thank you to Chelsea Storer and Suzi O’Brien who have coached and umpired this season. Also thank you to all the parents involved who show amazing support each and every week! Look out for the Superstars in Term Four!

Cybersafety
This week, as part of our Cybersafety information, we have included a link to a guide that goes through the platforms that children are most interested in. These include Minecraft, Instagram and Facebook. These guides can help you understand what your child may be doing online. These apps are constantly changing. Check back regularly for more updates.

Not sure how to access information with a QR code? Search your app store for a QR code reader – a free one will do. If you still require help let us know (or ask your child!!)
Parents and Friends

LINK UP!
Unfortunately the Link Up freezer is looking empty at the moment. If any families would like to donate items to this important school community activity it would be greatly appreciated. If you could date and label these items and send them in to the freezer in the multi-purpose room. Please only use disposable containers. Thanks!

Uniform Shop
If anyone is interested in helping out with the view of taking over from Sally Finch as Uniform Shop co-ordinator could you please let Sally know. A big thank you to Sally for all her hard work.

Canteen Roster term 2
22/04 Cathy Ferguson
29/04
06/05 Cathy Ferguson
13/05
20/05
27/05 Cathy Ferguson
03/06
10/06
17/06
24/06 Cathy Ferguson

Lost :- School Jumper.
Seamus Byron has unfortunately misplaced his school jumper. If found could you please send it in to the office.
Thank you

Parish News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS TIMES - 2015</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkeld:</td>
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<td>Glenthompson:</td>
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<td>Penshurst:</td>
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Parish News

St. Mary’s Catholic Youth Group
Pool Party
When: Sunday 19th April @ 10.30am
Time: 11am-3pm
Where: HILAC Pool
Cost: $4 entry
Snacks and drinks provided
Win prizes!
Gr. 5 to Yr. 12 RSVP: 0439 319 833 John and Sherrie Hockey

YJFLS Football 2015
Where – Pedrina Park
When – Sunday 19th April @ 10.30am
Registration – online at www.hamiltonjflccl.sportingpulse.net
Cost - $25 (to be paid on the day, not online)
For children in Grade 5/6
All players who played in last year’s U/12 competition MUST re-register if they wish to play again this year
Contact Daniel Hallam 0428 129 512