TEACH ME TO LISTEN

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family, my friends, my co-workers.
Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is, ‘Accept the person I am. Listen to me.’
Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me – the whisper of the hopeless,
the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished.
Teach me to listen, O God my Mother, to myself.
Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside – in the deepest part of me.
Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice – in busyness and in boredom,
in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen.
Fr John Velttri, S.J

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Already the term is flying and there are many extra-curricular activities filling the weeks - note the important dates!

Thank you to the many parents who attended our Parent Information night on Monday, especially those who came along to the first session – ‘Enhancing Learning and Teaching through our Learning Spaces’. I hope that you left with an awareness of the innovative and creative way teachers are working to engage students in their learning and development of skills.

Thank you also to staff who spent time preparing and presenting information to you on the night.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you @
Jo-Anne

School Rules
This year we continue with our three main school rules:

Respect your school
Do your best
Help others to succeed

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Sun 15th
School Mass @ 10.30am
Mon 16th
Expo Committee @ 6.30pm
Wed 18th
Ash Wednesday – liturgy 10.00am
P&amp;F meeting 6.00pm
Thurs 19th
District Tennis
Introduction to the Sacraments for parents evening
- Dunworth Centre @ 7.00pm
Fri 20th
Assembly 2.40pm
Sun 22nd
Sacramental Program commitment mass @ 10.30am
Mon 23rd & Tues 24th
Pupil Free Days
OLSEL Professional Learning days
Wed 25th
School Council @ 7.30pm
Fri 27th
CRT Induction session @ 9.30am

MARCH

Mon 2nd
Athletics Sports @ Pedrina Park
Fri 6th
Division Swimming @ Portland
Mon 9th
Public Holiday
Tues 10th
PSG meetings
Wed 11th – Fri 13th
Gr 5/6 Camp @ Melbourne
Fri 13th
Regional Swimming
Mon 16th/Tues 17th
Learning Conversations

School: St Mary’s Primary School
PO Box 788 Hamilton 3300
Ph: 5551 9000
Website: www.smhamilton.catholic.edu.au
Email: mcook@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paddy Mugavin Principal: Jo-Anne Bond SAC Chair: Marie McDonald

Friday 13th February, 2015 Issue 2

St Mary’s Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest: Fr Paddy Mugavin Principal: Jo-Anne Bond SAC Chair: Marie McDonald

Friday 13th February, 2015 Issue 2
School Mass
A reminder about our school mass this Sunday at St Mary’s Church starting at 10.30am.
As a Catholic community it is fitting that we begin our school year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. In doing so we are able to give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with.
➢ All students are expected to attend our whole school mass and be actively involved in the celebration.
➢ Students are required to wear their correct school summer uniform and sit with their class during the mass.
➢ Could all students please arrive at the Church no later than 10.25am and assemble in the Gathering Space with their classroom teacher.
➢ Following mass there is a cuppa as per the Parish roster. Feel free to bring a plate and join in.

Skoolbag App
Our Skoolbag app is available for download to Apple and android devices! Search for ‘St Mary’s Hamilton’ in your app store. This app is another way you can keep in touch with events, activities and information from school in order to support your children’s learning. If you would like more information or require assistance with this tool please contact the Office.

Learning Conversations
These conversations between parent/carer, teacher and student are an important opportunity for sharing of information and engaging in a positive way with the learning process. Learning Conversations this term are scheduled for Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March at the end of the school day. NB: Prep Learning Conversations will take place on Monday 16th March after school and Wednesday 17th March between 1.00 – 4.00pm.

Medical
During the week we were informed of a case of slap cheek. This illness presents as a distinctive red mark on the cheek/s as if the person has been slapped. A general feeling of being unwell can also be experienced. Please note the importance of notifying the school when your child is diagnosed with an illness which can be contagious. This allows us to monitor other children and inform parents.

Parents and Friends
All parents and friends are invited to come along to our first meeting for 2015 to be held in the school meeting room starting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 18th February.

Sacramental Program
Parents wishing to enrol their children in this year’s Sacramental Program for Reconciliation, Confirmation and/or First Communion are invited to attend an Introduction to the Sacraments evening on Thursday 19th February at 7.00pm in the Dunworth Centre. The program is for baptised children in Grade 3 but if your child has missed out on any of the sacraments please come along if you wish them to participate. A reminder to return the note handed out to students last week. If you missed the note but wish your child to participate please contact the Office. If you have any queries please contact the Parish Office on 5571 1161.

Gr 6 Leaders
Recently I was able to spend time with our Grade 6 students as they presented their leadership speeches to their peers and teachers. I was most impressed with the way these young people spoke with confidence about how they will serve our school community as leaders during 2015. We often have discussions around the concept that everyone is a leader and has a responsibility to be a positive role model and example to others. Following these presentations, students in Grade 5 & 6 and all members of staff voted for leadership positions. Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as our student leaders in 2015:

School Captains: Ayva Jones
Ben Starkie
Rosaria Captains: Tegan Kenny
Isaiah Mulley
Loreto Captains: Demi Taylor
Bailey Mason
Lourdes Captains: Ellie Jennings
Lachlan Urquhart
Fatima Captains: Tyneca Piper
Jason Hawker
Student Councillors: Isabella Malles
Ava Knight
Tom Meade
Max Bradbury
Tom Birland
Bailey Borgmeyer
Visitors during the school day
It is great to see parents and carers visit school during the day to support the learning programs in the classrooms. Our Visitors Policy, which is implemented to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community, requires anyone coming into the school to report to the office on arrival and sign in before moving into the learning spaces. Parents and carers are not permitted to enter the learning area or the playground without following the correct procedure. If the Office is unattended please do not wander past without completing the visitors book. If you need to drop something off to your child during the day please leave the items at the office for staff to deliver at an appropriate time. Thanks for your co-operation and support of this policy.

A few reminders!
- Supervision is provided by members of staff for students from 8.30am until 3.30pm.
- **Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am.**
- Please take careful note of the information provided in the ‘Travelling to and from school’ handout attached to last week’s newsletter.

During the past week I have observed incorrect use of our carpark and drop off/pick up zone. To ensure student safety and to use this space in a manner respectful to all you are asked to note the following points, which were also included in last week’s newsletter attachment:
- There is a drop off/pick up zone for delivering and collecting students from school at the start and end of each day. The safety of children, staff and parents will be the major consideration when deciding on directions for this area.
- Cars will not park in this area.
- Vehicles must stop as far forward in the zone as possible.
- Children must exit and enter the car from the left hand side of the vehicle only. There are dangers associated with using the right hand side when there is passing traffic on this side.
- If you need to assist students to either get out of or into the vehicle please park in the short term spaces to allow the drop off zone to flow smoothly.
- If your children are not ready at the pick up zone at the end of the day you can either park in the carpark and wait for them or do another lap of the roundabout.

- A short term carpark is located adjacent to the roundabout for the purposes of quick trips into the school during the day e.g. visit the school office, collect a sick child. **Maximum parking stay in this area is 10 minutes.** Long term parking, i.e. longer than ten minutes, is only available in the main carpark area.

**The Word on the Learning Street!**
**Prep**
This week we have been busy learning about the letter Bb and the sound that it makes. We have talked about words that start with ‘b’, practised writing ‘b’ and have learnt an action for ‘b’ which is like swinging a bat. Our words to learn have been ‘a’ and ‘i’. It’s great to use the take home books to find these words and letters in each night. Next week’s letter and sound of the week will be Kk and our word of the week will be ‘the’.
Could parents make a time for Numeracy Testing over the next couple of Wednesdays if they haven’t already.

**3/4**
What has been the best part about being back at school?
"Being in a big class with all my friends in the one room"
Rahni
I like working in groups because it’s easier to catch up with all the work. Brandon:

**5/6**
The Grade 5/6 Space!
Interesting things happening in Grade 5/6:
- We have a new space.
- We have a learning space in the Learning Street.
- We have homerooms.
- Work in different spaces with different people.
- We have a diary, that we take everywhere.
- We use the outside doors to come inside.
- Our learning space is more open.
- We don’t have tubs.
- We get to see new faces all throughout the day

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2015**
ICAS provides an opportunity for all students in Years 3 to 12 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The tests are an excellent preparation for national tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.
The entry fee per student is as follows:
- Digital Technologies - 19 May 2015 ($8.80)
- Science - 3 June 2015 ($8.80)
- Writing - 15 June 2015 to 19 June 2015 ($18.70)
- Spelling - 16 June 2015 ($12.10)
- English - 28 July 2015 ($8.80)
- Mathematics - 11 August 2014 ($8.80)
- All of the above ($66.00)

If you are interested in your child participating in these assessments please collect an entry form from the Office. Entries and payment are due by Thursday 5th March.

Chris Minney

The Sport Catch Up with Miss Couchman.

There is lots of sport coming our way, so get excited and please get involved in any way you can.

St Mary’s Athletics – Monday 2nd March

Stretch your muscles, dust off your running shoes and get ready to be blown away at Pedrina Park! Our Athletics Day is being held on Monday 2nd March! With this wonderful day just around the corner it is very important to remember TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More. Our athletics day cannot happen without our magnificent school community coming together to actively support it. So please keep your eyes peeled for Helper Forms coming home soon. Let’s TEAM up to give our kids another terrific Athletics Day!

Saturday Morning Netball

The St Mary’s Superstars make their debut in the Under 12 competition tomorrow morning. We have 11 excited netballers ready to take the court. Game time should be 9.30am, but check The Spec to be sure. Thank you to all the parents involved for their assistance in organising the team. We thank Chelsea Storer who enthusiastically offered to be the coach. Also a special thank you to Suzi O’Brien and Jo Bowie for offering additional coaching and umpiring support.

Swimming

We have 14 ‘super fish’ students who have qualified for the Division Swimming being held on Friday 6th March in Portland. We wish them all the very best for this event and look forward to hearing about their results in the coming weeks.

AFL Player Clinic

This year Essendon is conducting the AFL Player Clinic. It is a clinic for children in Grades 4, 5 and 6. It is being held on Tuesday 24th February at Melville Oval, which is a Student Free Day for St Mary’s. However, Jock Whiting has given us a spot in the 10.45am clinic. If you wish for your child to attend, you will need to take them and supervise them yourself. Please let me know by Monday 16th February, so I can give Jock our approximate numbers.

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 ☺

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note the times for the Uniform Shop: Monday afternoon 3.00pm – 3.45pm.

Please do not phone Sally at home or on her mobile to enquire about uniforms or place orders.

Purchases must be made either by attending the Uniform Shop on a Monday or by placing an order with payment at the front office.

Uniform orders placed at the Office during the week will be filled on Monday if payment has been received.

Parents and Friends

Canteen Roster term 1

18/2/15      Jen Taylor
25/2/15      Cathy Ferguson
4/3/15       Jen Taylor

Please note:- This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, no meals with meat will be available. A delicious meat free spaghetti bolognaise will be on offer or fish burgers.

Parish News

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<th>MASS TIMES - 2014</th>
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<td>Hamilton:</td>
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<td>Dunkeld:</td>
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Message from Sr Marg

“Greetings from my beautifully comfortable unit in Colac. As I move around my unit I am surrounded by memories and gifts from you, my friends in Hamilton. Your ‘words’ said and written on cards, your presence at the farewell Mass, your generous contributions which ‘gifted’ me with beautiful chairs and a television are deeply appreciated. I LOVED being a member of your parish community - thank you. You are remembered in my daily prayer. God bless.”

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 Lisa Mailles on (03) 5551 1245 or via lmailles@monivae.vic.edu.au