Dear Lord, use my eyes to **see** new friends.
Open my ears to **hear** my teacher.
Open my mind to **learn** new things.
Let my heart **remember** you are near when I am afraid.
Help me to **love** others like you do.
I want to **shine** your light so brightly in my school.
Amen!

**Important Dates**

February
- 15th Feb - Assembly
- 17th Feb - Beginning of Year School Mass
- 20th Feb - Parent Info Night @ 6.30pm
- 27th Feb - Athletic Sports @ Pedrina Park

March
- 4th & 5th March - Learning Conversations
- 5th March - Shrove Tuesday
- 6th March - Ash Wednesday
- 8th March - Pupil Free Day, Behaviour PD for all staff
- 11th March - Long Weekend
- 22nd March - Learning Walk 9.30-10.30am
- 25th March - Snow Queen performance @ Monivae for the whole school

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 school year! The Preps and I have been the most excited people in the school and the most ready to start the year! It has been an absolute pleasure to greet students and their families this week as we begin another year of learning and teaching.

It has been lovely over the last few days to catch up with many parents at drop off and pick up times. You are a very important part of our school community and your presence around the school brings us great joy. Your interest in the life of our school adds to the spirit we strive to instill in our community.
A very warm and friendly welcome to the students and families who have begun their school journey with us this year. We hope that St Mary’s provides you with a positive and strong educational experience. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm other students have offered in welcoming our newcomers – especially our Grade 6 buddies.

We also welcome three new staff members. Mrs Catherine Egan will be working on Tuesdays and Fridays in the 1/2 and 5/6 areas and Mrs Renee Perriman and Mrs Ainslee Vardy who will be providing extra support in the Prep area. We are very lucky to have them working alongside our amazing team. We are also very fortunate to have Mr Tony Flavel completing his teacher placement with the 5/6 team.

Please remember that, just like Jo-Anne, I am always more than happy to assist with any queries, concerns, ideas or just to be a listening ear. You are always welcome to contact me by phone at school or call in for a chat. If you would like to use e-mail to make a suitable time that would be great, otherwise ring the front office to check my diary. The door is always open!

Thanks for a great week!

Have a wonderful weekend with the people you love,

Terrielynn

**Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:**

1. Canteen pricelist
2. Catholic School Parents Victoria
3. Athletics Helpers return slip

**Advance notice:**

10th May - Mother’s Day High Tea
24th May - Peg Collery Awards
27th May - Beginning of Catholic Education Week
2nd August - Grandparent’s Day
30th August - Father’s Day Lunch/Footy Colours

**Congratulations!**

The summer holidays have produced a baby boom for our school community! Helen O’Brien and her husband Mark have welcomed their first grandchild, Quinn Marjorie. Adrian and Emma Densley have welcomed their son Raglan. Lachlan and Connie Onderwater have added a daughter, Heidi, to their family, while Ajish and Manju Jose have a new baby boy, Rueben. Congratulations to all these families. We know that these beautiful babies will bring great joy to their families.

**Prayers**

We offer our most sincere sympathy to Renee and Ben Perriman and family on the recent passing of Renee’s father. Please keep the Perrimans very much in your thoughts and prayers.

**School Mass**

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 to ask God for the guidance and energy needed to make the most of all that we have been provided with.

- Mass to celebrate the start of the school year will be held on **Sunday 17th February at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church, Lonsdale Street.**
- 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 families during the mass.
- Morning Tea will be offered following mass – could families please bring along a plate of food to share?

**Student Testing**

We knew holidays were coming to an end when students undertook their Literacy testing last week! The data that we gain from this testing, as well as the Numeracy Interview at the end of last year, is invaluable in assisting the teachers to plan their programs. Thanks for your support of these two programs by having your child attend punctually.

**Information Evening**

Parents are invited to attend our Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 20th February.

- A parent session for all families will begin at 6.30pm. This session will relate to our work with **behaviour procedures**, which will assist in the development of the students’ skills in this area and also in the smooth running of our school.
- Classroom sessions will be held in the homerooms and presented to parents twice on the night – 7.00pm and 7.30pm. Teachers will present information on content to be taught during the year, housekeeping news about their classroom and things you need to be aware of as your children journey through the school year.
- This allows families with more than one child to attend two classes. Apologies to those with more than two students. Any information provided as handouts on the night will be available for you.

**School Values**

This year we continue with our three main school values:

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Respect your school
Do your best
Help others to succeed
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During our day, and in all that we do, we try to remember these rules and make choices that support our expectation to ‘Treat others the way you would like to be treated’.

Student Attendance
It is a legal requirement for schools to contact parents if students are absent from school without an explanation – ‘on the day of the absence, as soon as is practical’. As a result, our office staff are required to contact you at 9.30am if your child is absent from school and you have not let us know already. Please contact the school by phone (leave a message if required), e-mail office@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or submit an absent note via the Skoolbag app before 9.00am on the day of absence or beforehand if known.

Working with Children Check
All parents/carers/visitors wishing to participate in any school activity will be required to have a current Working with Children Check.
WWC Check applications can be made online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au and are free for volunteers. Please include St Mary’s Primary School Hamilton as one of the places where you volunteer. Please present your WWC card at the front office to be entered into our register.

A Few Reminders!
Please be aware of the following information regarding bell times and supervision. It is important that you support us in our daily routine so that we can ensure the safety of all students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>Organisation time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55 - 11.00</td>
<td>Learning time (fruit time @ approx. 10.00am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.20</td>
<td>Play time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.20 - 11.30</td>
<td>Eating time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 - 1.30</td>
<td>Learning time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 - 1.40</td>
<td>Eating time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40 - 2.20</td>
<td>Play time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20 - 3.15</td>
<td>Learning time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>Dismissal bell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Supervision is provided by members of staff for students from 8.30am until 3.30pm.
- **Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am.**
- **Students must be picked up promptly following the 3.15pm bell.**
- At least two teachers are on duty at recess and lunch times.
- No child is to leave school before the dismissal bell unless permission has been granted. In these circumstances the student needs to be signed out in the register at the Office.
- As we have children who have nut allergies please **do not** include nuts/peanut butter/Nutella in lunchboxes. Please encourage children to wash hands before and after eating. Food is not to be shared.

Thank you for your support in all these school matters!

**Uniform**
Students are to wear their summer uniform for Term 1. Hats MUST be worn during this term at recess, lunchtime and other outdoor events. For students who don’t have their hat, they will need to sit under the shade sail. Please ensure that your children have their name on their hat and all items of their uniform.
Please note that St Mary’s uniform items can be purchased from Accurate Clothing in Gray St.

**Welcome**
to St Mary MacKillop Parish, Fr Doan Nguyen CSSR, who will be ministering in our parish beginning this weekend till the end of 2019.
Doan is one of 5 recently ordained Redemptorist priests who are assigned to Ballarat Diocese for a year of pastoral experience.
Doan’s presence will enable Fr Paddy to celebrate mass and meet after mass with our 13 rural communities which comprise our newly formed parish of Mary MacKillop.
He will also be involved in school ministry, hospital visitation, the Grange, Birches, & Eventide, anointing of the sick and elderly, and the many other pastoral situations that present each week.
Please make him welcome and invite him into your homes for a meal.
The other recently ordained will be serving in the parishes of Ararat, Maryborough, Ballarat Cathedral & Redan.

**Pastoral Care**
Hello everyone and Welcome to 2019, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break with your family.
My name is Lisa Gonnet I am your child’s/rens School Pastoral Care worker, my role is to support your child, family and the school community. I work alongside the teaching and wellbeing staff to support where necessary, this may include family separation, grief and loss, social issues including bullying and friendship issues, resilience, anxiety, self-esteem and parenting. I work one on one or run groups as needed. Outside referrals to other relevant agencies can be made, for example to psychologists or counsellors. To access this program either you or your child’s school can complete a referral and a consent form.
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to make contact, please note that all meetings with yourself and/or child is confidential.
My phone number is 0400 994 032.
My work day is: 8.30 to 4.30 and is as follows:
Managing feelings about starting school

Starting school can be a big change for your child, and he might feel a bit anxious as well as excited. Letting your child know that you think he’ll go well at school can help him feel positive. Here are more ideas for managing mixed feelings:

- Try to organise playdates with other children before the first day of school. It can help if your child knows another child going to the same school before school starts.
- Give your child lots of love and support. Be excited and enthusiastic about your child starting school. This sends your child the positive message that school is exciting and that she’ll cope and have fun.
- Read a children’s book about starting school with your child. Reading books about school together can help you talk with your child about his feelings. You could try Starting school by Janet and Allen Ahlberg, or Starting school by Jane Godwin and Anna Walker.
- Think about how you’ll manage your feelings on the first day. Even if you’re feeling sad or worried, it can help to keep these feelings from your child. Instead, try to see your child off with a happy, confident goodbye – and plan something nice for yourself too, like coffee with a friend.

When your child starts school, it’s a big change in your family life. It’s normal if you feel a little worried or sad too!

Kind regards,
Lisa Gonnet
Schools Pastoral Care Worker

ICYPOLES

This term we are selling icy poles every Tuesday for $1.00 each. We are raising money for the Epilepsy Foundation. We will be selling them at second lunch near the 5/6 tables.

Grace Cleaver

Canteen Roster

Lunch orders are available every Wednesday from now on as long as we have a volunteer. Canteen cannot be offered to our students without our volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please let the school office know or put your name on the roster at the office. At this stage we need a volunteer for next week.

13/02/2019 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

20/02/2019 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
27/02/2019 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Parish News

Mass Times – 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assembly

Our first 2019 assembly will be Friday 15th February, 2019 in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.
All welcome!

The Sport Catch Up

Welcome back to a new, exciting year full of possibilities! 2019 is looking to be another fantastic year for Sport and Physical Education! Term One, as always, is a very busy term for sport so keep an eye on this space!

School Athletics – Wednesday 27th February

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 Wednesday 27th February! It will run from 9.30am – 2.30pm. With this wonderful day just around the corner it is very important to remember that Together Everyone Achieves More. Our Athletics Day cannot happen without our magnificent school community coming together to actively support it. We would love for you to move around and watch your child/children participate. We will have a teacher based at each event and we are asking for helpers to assist moving each age group around on the day. All we ask for is some assistance at the event you are watching, for example you may need to help bring the shot puts back or hold a measuring tape at the long jump, but you will get to watch your aspiring athlete compete at each event.

Athletics Day Helper Slip

(Please return by 18th February)

I will be attending Athletics Day (Wednesday 27th Feb) and will be moving around with my aspiring athletic child/children:

(please indicate)
I will be attending from: ____________________________
(please indicate a time)

☐ I can help set-up at 7am at Pedrina Park.
☐ I am happy to be based on a specific event:
  Name ____________________________