Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

The Education Vision of the Diocese of Ballarat states: “As partners in Catholic education and open to God’s presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.” The latter part of this statement refers to this Sunday’s gospel reading (link above). In schools across our Diocesan community energy is given to working towards providing an environment that gives consideration to this fullness of life for each person – child and adult. Our Catholic message calls us to follow the example of Jesus in how we make choices about how we treat others and to bring them the opportunity to have ‘fullness of life’.

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

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**The Good Shepherd**

- **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 10: 1 - 10**

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived. **Greg Sunter**

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MAY**
- Fri 5th - Prep Parish Dinner
- Tues 9th – Thurs 11th - NAPLAN – Grades 3 & 5
- Fri 12th - Mother’s Day High Tea @ 2.00pm
- Thurs 18th - District Cross Country
- Mon 22nd – Fri 26th - Catholic Education Week!
  - Mon 22nd - Open Morning 9.30 – 12.30
  - Wed 24th - National Simultaneous Storytime
  - Fri 26th - Division Cross Country
  - Parish Family Dinner – Gr 1

**JUNE**
- Fri 2nd - Confirmation workshop
- Sun 4th - Sacrament of Confirmation @ 10.30am
- Mon 5th - Step Into Prep 9.30-1pm
- Mon 12th - Queen’s Birthday Holiday

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Advance notice:
- Fri 21st July  Grandparents’ Day
- Tues 25th July  School photos
- Fri 1st Sept  Fathers & Footy Day

School Fee Notices
School Fees were sent home with last week’s newsletter. If you would like to set up a Direct Debit payment for your school fees, I have included our bank details on your statement. If you have any queries or concerns or you would like help to set up a payment plan, please contact Helen at the office.

Uniform
A reminder that all students must be in their correct and full winter uniform by next Monday 8th May.

Head Lice
These little critters are rearing their heads once again within the school. We advise everyone to thoroughly check everyone in the family’s hair and address any presence of lice appropriately.

NAPLAN
Students in Grades 3 & 5 will participate in NAPLAN testing next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You can support your child by ensuring that they arrive at school in plenty of time to be ready for learning and by encouraging them to do their best and have a go! Staff have put a lot of time and energy into ensuring that students are well supported and that they have had the chance to practice for the experience.

Thanks!
During the first two weeks of this term we have had the pleasure of working with Ellen Richardson who has spent time in the Gr 1/2 area as part of her teaching course. Ellen will return to St Mary’s next term to continue her development. We wish her well as she returns to her university studies.
This week we have also welcomed three Monivae students as part of their work experience program. Thanks to Ben Scott, Sophie Duncan and Casey White for their assistance this week.

Parish Family Dinners
Parish Family Dinners begin again this Friday 5th May. These dinners are a great opportunity for families to gather together in a social setting that is hosted by Fr Paddy and the Parish. Please RSVP when you receive your invitation. The first dinner is for the Preps and their families.

Can you help?
Sam is looking for someone who might be able to help with a small welding job for the new chook house. If you think you might be able to assist please contact the office. Please start collecting garlic skins for the chooks!

Book Club Orders
Orders for Book Club have been extended to this Monday 8th May. Please have all your orders to the front office by then.

mother’s day high tea
Mums, Grandmas and Special Friends are invited to our Mother’s Day High Tea next Friday 12th May @ 2.00pm. A reminder to RSVP to the Office by Monday 8th May!

Assembly
Assemblies are held every second Friday starting at 2.40pm.
Our next assembly will be Friday 12th May.
All welcome!

Parish News

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Parents and Friends

UNIFORM SHOP
Opening times: Every second Monday 3.15 – 3.45pm
Monday 15th May
Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop or by placing an order with payment at the front office. EFTPOS available.

CAN YOU HELP?
Chris McCarthur has kindly been volunteering to assist families with uniform shop purchases. Due to a change in work commitments Chris is no longer able to help out. Are you able to give some of your time to open the uniform shop (day can be selected to suit you)? If you are interested please contact the office.
Canteen Roster

10/5/2017 Bonnie Goss
17/5/2017 Jen Taylor
24/5/2017 Jen Taylor
31/5/2017 Volunteer needed

Please note that if there are no parent volunteers there will be no lunch orders available on that day. If you would like to volunteer please put your name on the roster at the front office. We urgently need some new faces on our roster for our canteen to continue. Jen Taylor is more than happy to show you the ropes for your first time.

Pastoral Care

Hello, we continue exploring ways to support our child’s/ren’s resilience. This week we look at accepting our children for who they are.

Parenting tip #3: Accept your children for who they are. Your child is likely to be resilient if she feels accepted for who she is. To really accept our children for who they are we must resist the temptation to judge and criticise. Continual fault-finding is a sure-fire way to create questions about self-worth in children. Additionally, children who are consistently criticised will start to wonder about their relevance.

In contrast, children whose parents affirm their children’s efforts feel useful. When children are validated they feel worthy and acceptable as people. And they are also likely to work hard to maintain those positive feelings, which means when they encounter setbacks they will have the confidence to try again.

Letting children know specifically what you love about them or why you are proud of them can bolster resilience.

“I am so proud to be your mum. The way you treated the children outside the school this afternoon made me feel like the luckiest mum in the world!”

“You worked so hard at that activity today. I know you didn’t come first, but all that matters is that you tried hard – and it looked to me like you gave it everything you had!”

Remember, be specific. And avoid general praise such as “You’re such a good boy.” This is meaningless and can be taken back at any time. But when we let our children know we accept and love them, and offer them specifics, they feel like they can conquer anything!

Our children don’t need to be ‘fixed’ as much as they need to be loved.

Until next week,

Kind regards
Lisa Gonnet
Schools pastoral care worker
0400994032

The Sport Catch Up

Division Athletics
Official results:
Grace Cleaver: 1st Hurdles, 2nd 100m, 5th Long Jump
Hugh Fitzgerald: 2nd Hurdles, 4th 200m, 4th Triple Jump
Bailey Cooper: 3rd High Jump, 3rd Long Jump, 9th 100m
Rafael Gaio: 10th 200m
Ava Sobey, Bridget Mailes, Drew Garratt, Grace Cleaver: Disqualified in the Relay, however they ran an amazingly fast race and came 2nd in their heat, they just had a mishap with running outside the baton changeover box.

These are fantastic results from all our athletes! Well done to Grace (Hurdles & 100m) and Hugh (Hurdles & 200m) who have qualified for the Regional Athletics on Friday 13th October in Ballarat! We are very proud of your achievements!

Aussie Footy

We had such a fun afternoon of footy yesterday!! Miss Forrest and Miss Couchman were jealous they couldn’t jump on the field and play! Thank you to all the students who represented St Mary’s so wonderfully. A huge thank you to Matt Dunn for his support of umpiring both our teams. Without you we wouldn’t have had the opportunity to play. It was great to see so many parents supporting our last few games. Thanks to those parents who help goal umpire as well. The whole competition had a terrific community spirit about it and ran so smoothly. Thanks to Rhett Beattie’s amazing organisation. A full report from each team will be in next week’s newsletter.

Cross Country

When writing this the weather was looking great for Cross Country, so I am sure we had a fantastic afternoon of fitness and fun! Thank you for everyone’s support for our wonderful Cross Country! A special thank you to the parent helpers who collected tags and supported our runners at the finish line: Monique Sobey, Marie McDonald, Jessica Beattie, Kristi Lewis, Jo Sobey, Deb Fitzgerald, Mel Gardner, Suzi O’Brien, Jacinta Donaldson, Kris Fox and Vickie Button.

Full results will be posted in the student entry next week and students who have qualified for District Cross Country on Thursday 18th May at Lake Hamilton will be announced in next week’s newsletter.

Miss Couchman 😊
Link Up! - Can you help???

We have a number of families we would like to support with a food parcel from our Link Up freezer but the cupboard is bare! If you can manage to contribute to this care initiative your support would be greatly appreciated. Please see Jo-Anne, Terrielynn or Monique Sobey if you have any queries.

Looking Forward 2017

Fr Patrick Mugavin invites all parishioners to a Looking Forward meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 May at 7pm at 23 Dinwoodie Street, Hamilton (Dunworth Centre)

The meeting will be facilitated by Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar-General and Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant. The meeting is part of the Looking Forward diocesan pastoral planning process. In 2014 and 2015 there were larger Looking Forward Gatherings around the diocese. This year, in liaison with priests and parish councils, Looking Forward is holding meetings at parishes to focus on local matters.

All parishioners and members of the school community are most welcome!

For more information contact Amands 5397 7725 or Parish Office 5371 1361