Happy Catholic Education Week!

Next week we celebrate Catholic Education Week throughout the Diocese of Ballarat. This is a time where our schools celebrate all that we do and give thanks for all that we are fortunate to have.

It is also important for us to remind ourselves to ‘strive for the greater gifts’ every day – especially in our learning – and that everything we do should come from a sense of love, love of self, love of others and love of God!

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Hopefully, like me, you feel a great sense of pride at being part of a Catholic school. Our school and parish community has much to celebrate when we consider our facilities, our amazing children, our traditions and the learning opportunities and challenges that are offered to us daily.

With the theme of Catholic Education Week this year being ‘strive for the greater gifts’ (1 Corinthians 12:31) we are asked to focus on always doing our best!

You are most welcome to join us for our Catholic Education Week events next week.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you!

Jo-Anne

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY
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
Whole school mass @ 10.00am
Special event @ assembly
– St Mary’s Got Talent!
Parish Family Dinner – Gr 1

JUNE
Fri 2nd
Confirmation workshop
Sacrament of Confirmation @ 10.30am
Sun 4th
Step into Prep 9.30–1.00pm
Mon 5th
2018 Information Session 6.30pm
Mon 12th
Queen’s Birthday Holiday
**Catholic Education Week**

‘Strive for the greater gifts!’

**Friday 19th May**
- Catholic Education Week Dinner
  Members of our Diocesan Education community are recognised for their contributions. Among the award recipients this year we congratulate our neighbouring Principals and their staffs at St Joseph’s Coleraine, Sacred Heart Casterton and St Malachy’s Edenhope on being awarded the ‘Partnership Award’.
  Congratulations also to Liz Myers from Monivae College who is being recognised for 30 years of service to Catholic Education.

**Monday 22nd May**
- Open Morning 9.30am – 12.30pm
  Parents and friends are most welcome to come in for a school tour or to visit classrooms.

**Wednesday 24th May**
- National Simultaneous Storytime

**Friday 26th May**
- School Mass @ 10.00am – St Mary’s Church – all welcome!
- Special hot dog lunch – orders due on Monday 22nd May
- Special assembly @ 2.30pm – St Mary’s Got Talent! All welcome!

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

**Quality Schools funding package**
Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of information in the media about the Turnbull Government’s Quality Schools funding package and its impact on Catholic school fees.

The package proposed by the Government is a 10-year funding model, which will see significant changes to how Catholic schools are funded in the future.

Like the majority of Catholic schools, our school aims to be open and accessible to all families seeking a Catholic education. That means we aim to be affordable as well.

One of the big impacts of the Turnbull Government’s funding package is that Catholic school fees will have to rise.

This won’t happen tomorrow, but over the next 10 years, cuts to school funding will mean fees will gradually increase.

Catholic education leaders across Australia have been working hard to make sure the Government and the Opposition understand that our students will be disadvantaged by the funding model.

Everything is being done to make sure the Turnbull Government’s funding package does not become law.

That’s where our school community comes in. In coming weeks, please keep an eye out in the school newsletter (or at the bottom of school bags) for information about how you can add your voice to help prevent unreasonable fee increases.

We need to step up. Unreasonable fee increases are only a possibility at this stage – not a certainty.

Parents in nearly 500 other Catholic schools in Victorian have also been asked to get ready and join the campaign.

With your help, we can make sure our politicians in Canberra are listening to Catholic schools.

**Farewell and Thanks**
For just over twelve months Michelle Porter has been the friendly face and smile at our front office for two days each week – always ready to greet people warmly, have a chat and offer assistance. Michelle brings to her work an enthusiasm for school life and a willingness to be present to those she meets. We wish Michelle and her husband John the very best as they move (again!) to NSW and hope that they enjoy fully all that the next chapter in their lives brings them.

Michelle’s final day with us is next Tuesday.

**Prayers please**
This week we offer our sympathy to Isabel Gillies (Prep) and her family following the death of her Nanny Nola – Isabel’s great grandmother. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

We also extend our condolences and support to the Monivae College community on the death of Fr Mark McGuiness earlier this week. Fr Mark, and his friendly dog Magpie, were wonderful neighbours to St Mary’s during their years at Monivae.

**Uniform**
Runners/sneakers are only to be worn with the sports uniform. Black leather shoes are to be worn on all other days – with laces and buckles done up!
Reminder
Toys are not to be brought to school, unless they are for ‘show and tell’. Please note that we classify fidget spinners—the latest craze—as toys and therefore they are not to be at school.

ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
POSITION VACANT
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably experienced persons for a part-time, (13 hours per week over two days – Tuesday and Friday) ongoing position of School Administration Officer to commence on Tuesday 27th June 2017. This is a Category B Education Support 2-1 position under the Victorian Catholic Education Multi Enterprise Agreement 2013.

The successful applicant will have a demonstrated commitment to Catholic education and to the safety and wellbeing of children.

- The successful applicant will possess the skills and abilities necessary to undertake general secretarial duties and co-ordinate the school’s OH&S compliance requirements.
- The successful candidate will demonstrate enthusiasm and the ability to communicate effectively with members of our school community, and be able to provide care and support for students whilst supporting and respecting the ethos of the school and its environment.
- The successful applicant will be subject to a Working with Children Check and a National Police Record Check.

How to apply:
A detailed position description and application requirements are available by accessing the School website at www.smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or by contacting the school office on 5551 9000 or helen@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Applications close: Friday 26th May
This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Parish News

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Assembly
Assemblies are held every second Friday starting at 2.30pm.
Our next assembly will be Friday 26th May.

St Mary’s Got Talent
All welcome!

Parents and Friends
SAVE THE DATE AND ORGANISE YOUR BABYSITTER
St Mary’s Primary School Social Night
Saturday 12th August
$20 per ticket
Live Music from THE MCINTYRE BROTHERS
Supper from SIMSON AND JAMES
BYO Drinks
More details to follow

UNIFORM SHOP
Opening times: not until further notice – see ‘Can you help?’ below
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?
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
24/5/2017 Jen Taylor
31/5/2017 Volunteer needed
7/6/2017 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
Good morning again, I continue to be amazed at how fast time is passing as we enter week 5 - half way through the term and almost the year! This week we look at how important it is to teach our children that...
mistakes are an opportunity to learn rather than to be looked at as a fail.

Parenting tip #5: Teach that mistakes are an opportunity to learn

When you make a mistake, what do you do? Are you likely to throw your hands in the air and say it’s too hard? Do you give up and go back to what you know you can do? Or do you see the mistake as a chance to learn something new, and try again?

When your children make a mistake, what do they do? And perhaps more importantly, what do you say to them?

When we have a ‘learning’ orientation we see setbacks and failures as opportunities for mastery. By teaching our children that continued effort, practice, and learning are the keys to success, setbacks are no longer seen as frightening, and children become more resilient – willing to take risks and try new things. They are also more likely to look forward to possibilities in the future and have a more optimistic and curious nature. This mindset is strongly linked to resilience.

Until next week,

Kind regards Lisa Gonnet
Schools pastoral care worker
0400994032

THE SPORT CATCH UP

District Cross Country
Well done to the 33 students who represented St Mary’s terrifically yesterday at District Cross Country! Thank you to all the parent helpers who offered their assistance, we were overwhelmed with the support offered! Thank you to Miss Forrest and Mrs Schurmann who supported the students. We will have the full results in the student entry and top 8 results in the newsletter next week. The students who finished in the top 8 in the 10, 11 and 12 year old age groups will progress onto Division Cross Country next week, Friday 26th May, in Warrnambool. A note will go out to these students ASAP.

Hoop Time
We have received confirmation that our Hoop Time teams are registered this year! We will aim to have 4 teams in the Junior and Senior competitions. The Junior Day (Grade 3/4) will be held on Thursday 27th July and the Senior Day (Grade 5/6) will be held on Monday 31st July. If we have qualifiers for the next level the dates are 24/10 for the Juniors and 14/11 for the Seniors. Information letters and helper forms will go out later this term, but if you are super keen on coaching or scoring for a team please let Miss Couchman know.