Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome back to school for Term 3! We hope you had a wonderful break with your families.

We’ve had a busy first week with the students and staff engaged in the business of learning and teaching. Our only hiccup is the amount of mud outside and on the children’s clothes! Mostly they are doing their very best to stay out of it but it is quite difficult. Hopefully we might get a few dry days and the puddles might start to disappear.

We hope you have had a chance to read the information that was sent home this week regarding fundraising at our school and that it has sparked some excitement in you! We look forward to seeing you at our planning meeting on Tuesday 30th July in the Meeting Room so we can start fundraising for our students.

Thanks for a great week!
Have a restful weekend with the people you love,
Terrielynn

IMPORTANT DATES
July
Week 2
24th July – Catholic Education Strategic Planning Meetings @ Dunworth Centre
Week 3
30th July – Fundraising Meeting @ 5pm Meeting Room
2nd August – Grandparent’s Day
Week 4
5th August – Learning Conversations
9th August – Gr 3 Parish Dinner
Week 5
14th August – Learning Conversations

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. School Fees

Advance Notice:
19th August – School Photos
23rd August – Gr 4 Parish Dinner
30th August - Father’s Day Lunch/Footy Colours
6th September – Gr 5/6 Parish Dinner
12th September – Art Show
Staff Professional Learning
25th & 26th July – Principal’s Meeting – Terrielynn Groves
26th July – Reading Recovery PD – Lindy Cullinane

Congratulations!
Noah Romeo had the biggest smile coming back to school on Monday, very excitedly sharing the news of his baby sister Lara! Congratulations to Julie, Gary and Charlotte-Rose as well!
We would also like to congratulate two of our Gr 6 students who represented our school at the State Cross Country on Thursday in Melbourne. A fantastic effort, Hugh Fitzgerald and Rebecca Clottery, we are all very proud of you both.

Welcome!
This week we have welcomed four new students to our school. A warm welcome to Maddy Dawson (Gr 4), Baelan Phillips (Gr 4), Harry and Bronte Lignier (Gr 6) and their families. We hope their time with us is both happy and filled with learning.

Learning Conversations
On Monday 5th August and Wednesday 14th August, we will be having our Learning Conversations. These meetings WILL NOT BE COMPELLARY. Instead, you will be invited to request a meeting and likewise, homeroom teachers may do the same. As always, we will display a timetable near the office at school this Monday 22nd July for you to add your name to if desired. This will be up until Wednesday. On Friday we will send home confirmation of your time. If teachers want a meeting with you and you haven’t put your name on the timetable, the office will contact you late in the week. Please email or phone to reserve a time if you are unable to come into school in person.

Learning Journals
Learning Journals were sent home at the end of last term with students, highlighting the children’s Term 2 work. We hope you enjoyed looking at them, have written a comment praising your child’s growth and returned them to school. Thanks so much!

Enrolments
If you have a child ready for Prep in 2020, could you please contact the Office for an enrolment form. It would be very helpful for our organisation and planning if you could return completed enrolment forms by the end of July. If you know of other families who are interested in visiting our school and having a conversation about learning at St Mary’s please invite them to contact the school to make an appointment.

School Fees
School Fees have been sent home with today’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. Thank you.

Grandparents’ Day
We are looking forward to Grandparents Day on Friday 2nd August!

The timetable for the day is:

12.45pm Visitors arrive
   Please note that the Monivae Stadium car park is available for school parking on this day.
1.00pm Sing Along!
1.30 – 2.20pm Lunch and play time with grandchildren
2.30 – 3.00pm Old Fashioned Games in House Groups

Please RSVP as soon as you get a chance!

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
The annual Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) collects information about Australian school students who receive an adjustment to address disability.

Nationally consistent information on students in Australian schools receiving adjustments for disability enables schools, education authorities, and governments to better understand the needs of students with disability and how they can be best supported at school.

The national data collection on students with disability acknowledges the work already undertaken in schools to support students with disability. It assists schools to identify and to support students with disability so they can access and participate in education on the same basis as their peers.

Please find attached an information sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians. If you have any questions relating to this matter please don’t hesitate to contact Terrielynn.

Sheepvention
Just to let you know that the country buses will not be running on Monday 5th August due to Sheepvention. Other buses will run as per usual.

Canteen Roster
Lunch orders are available every Wednesday as long as we have a volunteer. If you are interested in helping out, please let the school office know or put your name on the roster at the office.

24/07/2019 Volunteer Needed

Link Up!
Thanks to those kind families who have already put food into our freezer during the week. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We would really welcome meals to share with families who are experiencing the highs and lows of life.
Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers. You can place it in the freezer in the Multi-Purpose Room yourself or leave it at the office. For more information or to let us know of families who need assistance please call the office.

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2019**

ICAS is developed by UNSW Global, a subsidiary of the University of New South Wales. ICAS is designed to target students’ higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling and Digital Technologies.

Each assessment celebrates students’ accomplishments by providing opportunities for recognition. The assessments are suitable for students wishing to extend themselves academically and take up the personal challenge of competing in an international assessment. Students will be presented with high-quality, expert-developed questions, allowing them to apply their learning without the need for prior study or revision. Every student will receive a certificate and an online result report.

The major difference to ICAS in 2019 is that the assessments will be done online. The exception to this is the Writing assessment for Grades 3 and 4 which will still be done on paper.

If you wish your child to compete in any or all of these competitions, entry forms are available at the school office. Entry forms and entry fees need to be returned to school by Tuesday, August 6.

If you have any further queries about ICAS please contact me.

**Pastoral Care**

Hello, Welcome to term 3! In this commentary I intend to share information that I have come across that I hope may be of interest to you.

For this term I will be sharing “Ten Hints for Creating Resilient Families” by Andrew Fuller, you can check out his website which has lots of information www.anderfuller.com.au

Resilience is the happy knack of being able to bungy jump through life it allows you to bounce back from hard times.

No.1. **Promote Belonging**

The sense of belonging we have is the strongest antidote we know of for self-harm, depression and drug abuse and it’s built on our sense of belonging. Children are most resilient when they have three types of belonging:

a) A sense of being part of a family
b) Having different friendship’s to belong to

c) Having an adult outside their family who connects with them.

No. 2. **Have some mooch time.**

We live in a world that suffers from attention deficit disorder. We rush children from activity to activity, from lesson to lesson and from one organised event to another. Then we wonder why, when there is a lull that they say “I’m Bored”. Be a counter-revolutionary. Find some time each week just to be at home without anything structured happening. Quiet times allow children to develop creativity and ingenuity.

Don’t forget I am available to support you and your family not just your child.

Kind regards Lisa Gonnet

Schools Pastoral Care Worker, 0400994032

**Assembly**

Our next assembly will be Friday 16th August 2019 in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm. All welcome!

**Parish News**

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[Image of a GenR8 Change Celebration Breakfast]

**GENR8 CHANGE CELEBRATION BREAKFAST**

**Learn - Mingle - Share - Eat**

Tuesday 23rd July, from 7:30am, The HUB, Gray St Hamilton

Join the GenR8 Change community from 7:30am - 8:30am to share stories and learn about actions happening across the Southern Grampians to make healthier choices easier. Come and connect and enjoy a showcase of healthy catering from Cafe’ Gray, Jack & Jude and Tosca Browns.

If you can’t make it for breakfast, pop in to the HUB and visit the healthy change display during the morning.

RSVP for catering purposes: E: ebony.jenkins@wdhs.net or P: (03) 5555 8475

[GenR8 Change logo and website: www.genr8change.com]
St Mary’s Christmas Parade!

After consultation with our school community through a survey and meeting and meetings with our Shire and HRBA (Hamilton Regional Business Association), a number of decisions have been made regarding the future of Christmas Expo.

1. Expo will be renamed St Mary's Christmas Parade.
2. This event will move to the evening of FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER, with the parade beginning at 6pm.
3. The parade will be the main focus. The message was very clear from our school and wider community that this was the main part of Expo that people enjoyed and wanted to see retained.
4. The parade will proceed down Gray St, as usual, and finish in Brown Street with the community lighting of the town’s Christmas Tree.
5. Suggestions are that we still have a BBQ, drinks, ice-cream, coffee on the grassed area of the PAC and maybe also our Gourmet Gifts, Gift Baskets, second hand books, raffle etc. These decisions have yet to be made.

We invite you to a meeting on TUESDAY 30th JULY at 5.30pm to begin making further plans. We would love to see you there!

Other Fundraising!

As you are aware, plans are underway to cover our basketball courts to allow for an outdoor space that can be used all year round. We are still in the very early stages as paperwork takes a long time to gather!

It has been suggested that we hold an event such as a Walkathon here at school, where the children and their families get donations to walk laps of our school oval to raise funds for our court cover. A proposed date is late Term 1, 2020.

Is this something you might be interested in helping with?

Lunches!

Last term Katrina Turnbull, Tracey Holyoak and Siana Causer re-invigorated our P & F Lunches idea with a pizza lunch that was well-received by all! This group hopes to do this on a regular basis, so perhaps this is an area you would be keen to assist with. The monies raised will go towards items for our students, such as new sand-pit toys.

Is this something you might be interested in helping with?