Loving God, we pray that we may grow closer to your son, our Lord Jesus, and share our love with our sisters and brothers who are most vulnerable. Amen.

Pray. How can I create space to be still? be silent? pray to God? Can I close the door on the world, away from the hustle and bustle, to rekindle my relationship with myself? with God? Can I make time every day to do this, trusting that God’s grace will bring light to my life and to those around me?

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Three weeks down and we are certainly well into the swing of the term. There are so many activities and events going on and being organised to support the whole learning process for each child.

Next Wednesday I encourage you to come along to the Parent Information Night (starting at 6.30pm) to learn more about how we learn at St Mary’s and the organisation in each class area. This is one of the opportunities you are offered to increase your awareness and knowledge of the learning journey for your children. Research has shown, for many years, that parents’ involvement in learning is a key factor to student engagement, confidence and outcomes. I look forward to seeing you!

Thanks for a great week! God bless you! ☺

Jo-Anne

IMPORTANT DATES

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Life Ed Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Life Ed Parent Session @ 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Hockey Clinic – Grades 1 – 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 21st</td>
<td>Emergency Drill – evacuation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 25th</td>
<td>Parent Information Night @ 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 25th</td>
<td>Sacramental Parent meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>@ 9.30am at St Mary’s Church</td>
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**MARCH**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 1st</td>
<td>Gr 3/4 Class mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd</td>
<td>Athletics Day @ Pedrina Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5th &amp; 6th</td>
<td>Learning Conversations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gr 1/2 Class mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
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<td>Public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 15th</td>
<td>Prep Class mass @ 10.00am</td>
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ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. School Fees
2. Project Compassion flyer
3. Lent cards – week 1

Advance notice:
- Fri 11th May     Mother’s Day High Tea
- Mon 21st May    Pupil free day
- Wed 23rd May    Open Morning
- Mon 4th June    Step into Prep
- Fri 27th July   Grandparents’ Day
- Fri 31st August Fathers & Footy Day

Project Compassion
One of the concepts of Lent is ‘giving’ – giving something that helps those who experience poverty and hardship. Students received a Project Compassion box on Wednesday to take home and are encouraged to save money to support Caritas Australia during Lent. They might:
- contribute some of their own pocket money,
- give something up for Lent (eg chocolate) and put the money they would have spent into the box,
- do jobs for people for small amounts of money to put into their Project Compassion box.

This year the theme is “A Just Future” and celebrates the Year of Youth. As Pope Francis said, “Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation.”

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

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.
- Parents waiting to collect their children at the end of the day are asked not to wait in the Learning Street as this distracts students and hinders teachers in preparing students for dismissal.

Thanks for your co-operation and support of this policy.

LINK UP!

A strength of the St Mary’s Community is our ability to look after one another in times of need. On numerous occasions already this year Link Up has assisted families who have experienced loss, illness, sadness and celebration. A gentle knock on the door, friendly face and care package mean a great deal to those who have received assistance.

Thank you to those parents who have already generously provided food for our freezer:
- lasagne, quiche, cakes, slices, cupcakes, sausage rolls, soup, casseroles …

Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers.

You can place it in the freezer in the multi-purpose room yourself, leave at the office or with Terrielynn or Jo-Anne. We aim to be a community who demonstrates the values of compassion and hope. This is an important and practical way you can actively and positively contribute.

For more information, offers of assistance or to let us know of families who need assistance please call the office.

Student attendance
Thanks for your support in contacting the school if your child is away for the day. 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. Staff are required to make contact if we have not heard from you by 9.30am.

Gr 6 Leaders
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as our student leaders in 2017:

School Captains: Macey Bowie
Nick Trotter

Rosaria Captains: Emily Pearce
Drew Garratt

Loreto Captains: Tayla Lewis
Felicity Watson

Lourdes Captains: Amy Shelley
Callum Hill

Fatima Captains: Stella Raymond
Charlotte Tonnisen

Student Councillors: Caitlin Urquhart
Liam Handreick
Ava Nicholson

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.
Learning Conversations
Our Learning Conversations (Parent/Teacher Interviews) are scheduled for Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th March. Appointment times will be sent home to all families on Friday 23rd February.

- This is an opportunity to have a discussion between parents, teachers and students relating to your child’s learning so far this year. It will also be a time to share learning directions and the results of Literacy and Numeracy testing conducted so far.
- Please bring your son/daughter along to their appointment time so he or she can be involved in the conversation.
- Fifteen minutes has been set aside for your conversation. If you wish to take some of this time for a chat without your child present please indicate this to the teacher at the start of your time.
- It is vital that you are punctual to these meetings to ensure that we can run the afternoons as smoothly as possible.

Information Night
Looking forward to seeing you next week at our Parent Information Night on Wednesday 21st February.

- A parent session for all families will begin at 6.30pm. This session will relate to our work with essential learnings for students and outline the process our teachers follow to determine appropriate learning activities for each student.
- Classroom sessions will be held in the classrooms 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.

Parish News

**MASS TIMES – 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Dunkeld</td>
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<td>Glenthompson</td>
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<td>Penshurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
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**ST MARY’S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2018**

- Interested in being Baptised into God’s family in the Catholic Church? Please contact the Parish Office to have a conversation about how this can happen for you or your child – no matter what age!
- Reconciliation will be celebrated the evenings of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd March, the week before Holy Week.

- Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place between Sunday the 25th Feb and Sunday 23rd March.
- **Meeting for parents on Sunday 25th Feb at 9.30am (prior to 10.30am mass) at the Church**
  - Each Sunday at the 10:30am Mass, the children will look at the Gospels appropriate to Reconciliation during Children’s Liturgy of the Word.
  - To register your child/ren for the Sacramental Program please complete a registration form by **Monday 19th February**. These are available at St Mary’s Parish House, St Mary’s School and on the Parish website.

**Assembly**

Assemblies are held every second Friday in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.

Our next assembly will be **Friday 23rd February**.

All welcome!

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

21/02/2018 Shannon Smith
28/02/2018 Cass Young/Jodie Nicholson
07/03/2018 Volunteer needed

- Can you help with our Canteen Roster?
- Please note that if there are no parent volunteers there will be no lunch orders available on that day.
- If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact the office.

**Family Fee Assistance**

The Family Fee Assistance Scheme offers a tuition fee concession to families who hold a current Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. Please note that students who are holders of Health Care Cards are not eligible. An application form needs to be completed and is available at the office. **These forms must be received by Friday 23rd February, 2018**. If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for Centrelink, please come and discuss this with Helen.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Hello, we are already week three and this week I would like to share with you a website that is full of information regarding children’s wellbeing. It is a site that has been developed in conjunction with the Australian Government, Beyond Blue, Australian Psychological Society (APS) and others. Below I have reproduced a short excerpt which relates to a subject that many parents have some concerns about, their child’s emotional wellbeing and confidence.

How do children and emotional learning have to do with learning? Research has shown that children’s learning is influenced by a range of social and emotional factors. How well children do at school is affected by things such as:

- how confident children feel about their abilities
- how effectively they are able to manage their own behaviour
- how well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- how effectively they can solve problems
• how positively they are able to get on with teaching staff and with peers
• how effectively they take into account others’ needs
• how well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

As pastoral care worker I am able to work with your child to help them to learn personal skills that will help them, not just in school, but hopefully, for life. The website this is taken from is: www.kidsmatter.edu.au I hope you will find it of interest. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you wish to meet me, to know who I am, call me on 0400 994 032.

Kind regards, Lisa Gonnet
Schools Pastoral care worker

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2018
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. 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 and dates of competitions are as follows:

- Digital Technologies - May 8 ($9.90)
- Science – May 29 ($9.90)
- Spelling – June 13 ($13.20)
- Writing - June 14 ($19.80)
- English – July 31 ($9.90)
- Mathematics - August 14 ($9.90)
- All competitions ($72.60)

If you are interested in your child participating in these assessments, please collect an entry form from the Office. Entries together with fees are due by Friday March 9. Late entries will not be accepted. We hope to see many students taking on these challenges once again this year.

If you have any queries about ICAS please contact me.

Chris Minney

THE SPORT CATCH UP

Coles Sport for Schools Program
We are happy to announce that we registered for the Coles Sport for Schools program. We now have a collection box at Coles and a collection box at school, in the student entry. Thank you to all the families who have dropped vouchers off at the office this week. We want to extend a large thank you to Kristy Lewis who is co-coordinating this program. Our Week One tally is up to around 300 vouchers, so thank you for your overwhelming support so far!

Saturday Netball
We have once again joined with Good Shepherd for Saturday Morning netball to form the Saintly Shepherds. The students from our school are: Jayde Brown, Bella Holmes, Ally Holmes, Emily Beattie, Chloe Wormald and Joseph Wormald. Kate Wear from Good Shepherd and Teeghan Brown from St Mary’s have offered to coach the team. Shauna Beattie has once again offered to be our team umpire. We thank all these parents for their support and time. The Saintly Shepherd’s play at 9.00am this Saturday.

Hockey Clinic Grade One to Four - Monday 19th February
The Grade 1-4 students will participate in a hockey clinic being held at school on Monday 19th February. Grade 3/4S students will participate in the clinic from 9-10 and Grade 3/4HW will be from 10-11am. Then Grade 1/2W students will participate from 11.30am-12.30pm and Grade 1/2GC will be from 12.30-1.30pm. If your child/children are in these classes, please ensure sports uniform is worn on this day.

School Athletics Grade One to Six – Friday 2nd March
Please ensure you read over the Athletics Day note that came home today. Also please have a read of the athletics day program with your child, you may wish to highlight their events and then send it with your child on the day. We are looking forward to a fantastic day!

Division Swimming - Wednesday 7th March
Division Swimming is being held on Wednesday 7th March at AquaZone in Warrnambool. I will be in contact with the students who have qualified for this event in the coming days.

Division Sports
The HDSA (Hamilton District Sport Association) has made a considered decision that we will not be running any Hamilton team buses this year to Division Sports, such as Athletics and Cross Country. This decision was made due to declining numbers using the service. As such any St Mary’s students who qualify for this level will have to make personal travel arrangements. We will aim to ensure that no student misses out on participating at this level due to travel limitations. Further information regarding this will be included in notes for students who qualify throughout the year.

We are thoroughly 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 or news at ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Monivae Open Days

Mind
Spirit
Heart

St Mary’s Primary School Newsletter
Issue 3

Kind regards
Chris Minney
Pastoral care worker

ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au