We thank you Lord, for this term.
For the challenges, the successes,
and the mistakes from which we have learnt.
Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.
Give us strength and courage to do what is right:
to be witnesses of our faith.
Help us to be a good person these holidays,
to appreciate what others do for us,
to give time and effort to help others.
To be peacemakers in our family.
Keep us safe in our activities;
give us good rest and good fun.
Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Which song do you have playing on repeat in your head?!! I think the kids are suffering from the same ailment – every now and then they break into song and end with a genuine, from the heart chuckle. The concert keeps on giving!!

A huge congratulations to the students for their amazing efforts throughout the term in bringing their performance to the stage. The building blocks have been firmly set in place all year with serious time being committed to practising throughout this term. At our debrief on Wednesday morning the kids were feeling ‘relieved’, ‘hyped’ and ‘proud’ – as were the staff.

John Healy is not only a hypnotist but also a very talented craftsman. He has weaved together threads of an idea, seeking sneaky input along the way, and

**Important Dates**

**October**
- Mon 8th: Term 4 begins!
- Expo meeting
- Wed 10th: BDSAC dinner – SAC members
- Thurs 11th: BDSAC meeting @ St Mary’s
- Fri 12th: Regional Athletics
- Mon 15th – Tues 16th: Gr 3/4 Camp – Grampians Retreat
- Wed 17th – Fri 19th: Gr 5/6 Camp – Camp Bridgewater
- Wed 24th: SAC meeting @ 7pm
- Fri 26th: Mission Day

**November**
- Mon 5th: Pupil free day
- Tues 6th: Public holiday – Melbourne Cup
- Fri 9th: Kanga 8s
produced something that has showcased the best our school can present. Thank you John – pay rise was in the bag!

Thanks also to all staff for your support, commitment and enthusiasm for this event. Your encouragement of the students, your willingness to be flexible with rehearsals and your energy on the day contributed greatly to the performances.

And to parents and carers – well done for your encouragement of your kids, your support of this area of the curriculum and some of you for even taking the stage!! Thanks also for the great feedback – in person, by e-mail and on our Facebook page. Make sure you check out our Facebook page to revisit items from the concert.

It was a great St Mary’s community event – well done!

And now for the end of term and a well-deserved break. Thanks for the amazing contribution you have all made to our school community during term 3. We have had many great things to celebrate including Grandparents Day, Footy with our special blokes, Book Week and By Request Concert!

A lot of tired eyes this week – ready for a good rest. Our Junior students are especially exhausted after their late stay and Grade 2 sleepover!

Looking forward to term 4 – sunny days, celebrating fantastic learning growth and Christmas Expo!

Thanks for a great term!
God bless you! @ Jo-Anne

School Advisory Council
At the recent SAC meeting members agreed to move forward with the next stage of planning to develop a cover over our existing basketball courts. While the planning process will take some time we are hoping to have this project complete by the end of next year. Funds from the last few Christmas Expos and Capital Fees from families will contribute to the cost.

The Council also approved two pupil free days to allow staff to participate in professional learning. Students will not be required at school on Monday 5th November making this a four day weekend for them. Please note that the final day for students for the year will be Wednesday 19th December.

School Fees
If you are having difficulties in paying your account, please contact Helen or Jo-Anne. While we are committed to supporting all families in our school, we are also obliged to address outstanding fee payments. Your prompt response to your invoice is appreciated. We will follow up on outstanding accounts next term. Thank you

Parish News

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Canteen Roster

- Please email the office (office@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au) over these school holidays if you would like to volunteer for one of the above dates.
- Can you help with our Canteen Roster?
- If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact the office.
- Please remember if we do not have volunteers we cannot run the canteen.

Assembly

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

Our next assembly will be Friday 19th October

All welcome!
This year our St. Mary’s Christmas Expo will take place on Saturday, 1st December, 2018 at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre in Brown Street.

All students, staff and families are asked to be involved and are encouraged to bring along family and friends from within and beyond Hamilton to ensure this event heralds the festive season in a fun-filled and joyous way.

The Parade starts at 10.30a.m.

What’s the purpose of running the Christmas Expo?
This wonderful event...
- strengthens our St. Mary’s Community Spirit,
- raises important funds for our school and
- heralds the beginning of the Christmas Season in Hamilton and the surrounding District.

We would love you to be a part of it and we welcome and encourage you to become involved.

Funds raised this year will go towards the covering of our Basketball Courts

THE SPORT CATCH UP

Hockey
As the term ends, it also means that another hockey season has come to a close for the year. Once again, we had a number of St Mary’s children playing for Monivae Hockey Club.

Playing in Division 4 this year, we had Sam Walsh, Isabelle Schaap, Jono Beattie and Will Baker. A great season was had by all of these children. Jono stepped out of goal keeper for the first time in his hockey career and Isabelle continued to work hard on her defensive skills. Sam and Will were great in attack with both boys scoring a couple of goals each during the season. Whilst all 4 children had experience in Division 5, it was their first year stepping up to the higher division. Well done kids!

In Division 5 (coached by former St Mary’s student, Edward De Salis) we had Emily Beattie, Chase Turnbull and Bryce McArthur. It was Emily and Bryce’s first hockey season and they both had a stellar season, showing many improvements throughout the year. Chase also had a great season, topped off by winning the ‘Most Improved’ trophy at the recent presentation night. Fantastic effort Chase! Due to lower numbers in Div 5 this year, Isabelle played in this division as well, sometimes playing two games in a row!

Overall, it was another successful hockey season. Looking forward to the summer break before we are back to do it all again next year!

Walk to School
This year we are participating again in the Walk to School month which encourages primary school children to walk, ride or scoot to and from school throughout October, to help them get the 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day. Just as we have done for the last couple of years we will have a walking group meet at the Ballarat Road School/Monivae Crossing from 8.20am, which will depart for school between 8.35-8.40am. We will begin the very first day back of Term Four!

This year the student “prize” will be awarded at staff discretion to the student who displays the highest level of behaviour change or enthusiasm towards ongoing walking habits throughout the month of October, not for the highest number of walks. We are also guaranteed a $100 Sportspower voucher again this year for participating, this generous voucher from last year was used to purchase our new basketballs. We immensely thank Ebony Jenkins at Southern Grampians Glenelg Primary Care Partnership and VicHealth for their support and organisation of our Region’s Walk to School initiative.

Regional Athletics
We have three wonderful athletes competing in the Regional Athletics the first week back of next Term. Grace Cleaver, Tiago Gaio and Jack Sobey will be attending the Regional Athletics being held in Ballarat on Friday 12th October. Grace will be competing in the Hurdles, 100m and 200m. Tiago will be competing in the Hurdles and Long Jump. Jack will compete in the 800m. We wish these three superstars all the best for next term and cannot wait to report on their results!

Aussie Footy Lightning Premiership
The Aussie foofy team had a fabulous afternoon at Pedrina Park on Wednesday. Thank you to Rhett Beattie for organising such a terrific event. We played five toughly contested games and walked away with two wins. Our goal kickers for the afternoon were Koby, Jack, Josh, Caitlin, Tiago and Sam Walsh was robbed of a brilliant goal. All participating students rotated through roles, playing with great passion and sportsmanship. It was incredible to have students offer to help other teams out. Overall it was the terrific afternoon of sport that was a pleasure to be a part of.
Thank you immensely to Matt Dunn for his on field coaching, the kids love having you out there.

Elise Couchman

Mini Vinnies decided to organise a casual clothes day for the last day of Term 3. All the money raised will go to the drought appeal that is run by St Vincent de Paul. We raised $167.50. Thank you for participating and have a wonderful and safe holiday.

Many thanks,
Claire Pearce, Tayla Lewis and Olivia Houlihan